Saipan son reaps academic awards at Colby College in Maine. PAGE 2
Japanese Autumn Festival a resounding success. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 216

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2023 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

IN A BID TO DIVERSIFY TOURISM MARKET

Palacios, delegation woo Taiwan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

Manglona

Concepcion

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and a small delegation left the CNMI yesterday for a six-day visit to Taiwan as part of the administration's efforts to, among other goals, broaden the CNMI's source markets for its struggling tourism industry.

In a statement, Palacios said this visit involves a number of meetings with senior level government officials as well

See PALACIOS on Page 4

'FEMA docs reveal $367.4M had been obligated as federal share for $493.3M in eligible projects'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DeLeon Guerrero

The summary of the Federal Emergency Management Agency documents provided through the Freedom of Information Act as requested by Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) reveals that $367.4 million had been obligated as FEMA federal share for the eligible projects totaling $493.3 million pertaining to disasters and COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about the FOIA request, DeLeon

See FEMA on Page 4

Senate passes bill for $15M MPLT line of credit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed yesterday with some amendments a bill that authorizes the CNMI government to negotiate a revolving line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of $15 million.

With all six senators present at a special session voting "yes," House Bill 23-77, in the form of Senate Draft 1, passed the Senate. The legislation goes back to the House of Representatives for action.

Sens. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), and Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) were absent but excused from the session.

See SENATE on Page 4

In Memoriam remembers local civilians killed in WWII

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To remember over 900 civilians who lost their lives during the Battle of Saipan in World War II, the 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council held an In Memoriam ceremony last Friday at the Marianas Memorial Courtyard of the American Memorial Park in Garapan

See MEMORIAM on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Gov. Arnold I Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang lay the first wreath at the Marianas Memorial Courtyard during the In Memoriam ceremony last Friday at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Celebrate this Halloween with your kids at Hyatt Regency Saipan.
PAGE 11

WORLD
Nearly three dozen trucks entered Gaza on Sunday in the largest aid convoy since the war between Israel and Hamas began.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Matthew Perry was widely mourned this weekend by friends, co-stars and some very famous fans.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Academic awards for Saipan son

With three months left until 2024, former Saipan resident and current Colby College student Arvin S. Dayao has already reaped honors and awards that for a lot of students may take some time to achieve.

Dayao

Just this September, Dayao was again chosen as the recipient of the Bixler Scholar Distinction award—an honor given only to a small group of students who have been distinguished for their academic excellence. He has received the award for three consecutive years.

The Bixler Fund was set up in 1960 by the Colby Parents Association in honor of former Colby College president Julius S. Bixler upon his retirement in 1960. The Fund is set up to honor students for their extraordinary academic engagement and commitment.

In July, Dayao received accolades for winning the Gregory C. Pomeroy award for Excellent Abstract Writing during the Colby Summer Research Retreat 2023 held at Colby College from June to July, 2023.

In May, Dayao was inducted into the Colby College's chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa, enabling him to join a select group of academics selected for their academic achievements in the classroom and dedication to the ideals of liberal learning.

Ankeney Weitz, president of PBK Beta Chapter of Maine, invited Dayao to join the college's top graduates who, for more than a century, have been members of the PBK honor society. PBK is the oldest and most prestigious academic honor society, with chapters only at the most distinguished colleges and universities in the U.S.

Earlier this year in February, Dayao was selected as a recipient of the Phi Beta Kappa Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award, which is given annually to outstanding sophomore and junior students.

Dayao is currently a senior at Colby College in Maine, which he has been attending as a Questbridge Match full academic scholar since

See AWARDS on Page 4

Regenerative Agriculture
WORKSHOP SERIES
Learn how to grow your own food!
Saturday Nov. 04
Saipan
Family Food Forest & Commercial Agroforestry Workshop - NMC Campus, Room K-1, 8:00AM - 4:30PM
Saturday Nov. 11
Saipan
Installation - CREES As Perdido Research Station , 6:30am - 2:30pm
Wednesday Nov. 08
Rota
Family Food Forest & Commercial Agroforestry Workshop - NMC Campus, Rota 8:00AM - 4:30PM
Thursday Nov. 09
Rota
Hands-On/ Installation
Mr. Ambrosio's (Ambi) plot Gampapa, 6:30am - 2:30pm
(Map will be provided in Day 1 workshop)
Monday Nov. 13
Tinian
Family Food Forest & Silvopasture/Commercial Agroforestry Workshop
NMC Campus, Tinian 8:00AM - 4:30PM
Tuesday Nov. 14
Tinian
Installation
CREES San Jose Research Station, 6:30am - 2:30pm
For more information about the Regenerative Ag Workshop, please contact Jesse Deleon Guerrero at (670)237-6876 or email jesse.dlguerrero@marianas.edu
TO REGISTER please scan THIS QR CODE!
or visit bit.ly/AGWS23
Northern Marianas College CREES is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Northern Marianas College CREES is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities. For more information or to request disability accommodation contact Margaret Kintol at margaret.kintol@marianas.edu
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
NMC
1981
CREES

Japanese Autumn Festival a resounding success

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Carolinian Utt grounds in Garapan was jam-packed last Saturday evening with the return of the 2023 Japanese Autumn Festival—the first time the festival has returned to an in-person celebration since the COVID-19 pandemic.

As has become tradition since the festival's inception, the opening ceremony was highlighted by the breaking of the seal on a barrel of the Japanese drink "sake" and the distribution of the beverage to guests.

The celebration itself was filled with Japanese food from vendor stalls like the Kinpachi and Himawari restaurants, to Japanese games, and performances from Saipan Awaodori Team, Katori Shrine maidens, and KouDou Tsugami.

In the spirit of celebration, several who attended the event even wore Japanese garb.

One such character, wearing a Japanese Matsuri, was a 1-year-old pitbull named Katsu. Her owner, Julia Espino, who was accompanied by her boyfriend, Jay Santos, said the night's turnout was "pretty good."

"I love the location that they chose. We just arrived so the food is good. … I think its very affordable, there's a lot of people here, and Katsu is having such a great time seeing so many people," Espino said, adding that she believes events like this are important.

"I think it's very important to infuse different cultures within community events of the year. …We're just like a melting pot of people here in the CNMI and it's such a blessing to be able to celebrate different cultures," she said.

As for Katsu's outfit Espino said they actually got his costume from Japan. "We were…looking forward to the Japanese autumn festival that happens every year, so we decided to buy this costume for him. …It's very rare for us to find extra-large clothes, so we decided to buy it for him so he could be really festive at this event," she added.

Another person whose outfit also stuck out was Mt. Carmel Student Wayne Ano. He shared that he and his grandfather worked together to make the costume, which is tailored after an anime demon slayer.

When asked what he thought about the event, he said, "I've been enjoying it so far because of how people are able to celebrate their differences, which honestly kind of warms me up. And it's also a sign of cultural appreciation. We get to enjoy other activities that other countries have invented. All their events, their history, stuff like that with these games, the food, things like that."

Along with a visiting delegation from Japan, Mayor Tomonori Ito of Katori City, a Japanese sister city of Saipan, joined the festival host, the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the events that night. Toward the end of the night, Ito also gave a performance for the crowd, doing a balloon art routine.

Ito later explained that he came to Saipan as part of his city's sister city relationship the Saipan. He said that Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho visited Katori City in July "to celebrate our festival so we're really excited to be able to come here to celebrate the festival in Saipan this time."

Since coming to the CNMI, Ito said that everybody has been "so friendly and its amazing to see…how we're able to have this relationship and see all of this."

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Saipan Awaodori Team opens as one of the first performances of the night during the Japanese Autumn Festival last Saturday evening at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Local students dress in Japanese garb and demonstrate to onlookers how to play this Japanese game last Saturday evening at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Santiago wins contest that marked Bourbon café's first anniversary

By RANIEL SANTOS
ralphdaniel.santos@uap.asia
CORRESPONDENT

Bourbon Street Bar and Café in Garapan celebrated its first anniversary last Oct. 28, with Donato Santiago romping off with the $500 prize as the first-place winner of the bar's Karaoke Superstar singing contest.

In second place was Jessel Antonio, who won $200, while third place went to Arianne Antonio, who won $100. Those who did not make it to the last stage of the contest won consolation prizes from Hafa Dai Rent-A-Car.

The judges in the final round were Jasmin Nabelgas, Aleligay Uy, Jeff Hofschneider, Tina Palacios, and Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan).

Bourbon Street Bar and Café held weekly contests for several Mondays to come up with the seven semifinalists: Robby Murillo, Santiago, Antonio, Leizel Davis, Antonio, Conchi Palma, and Rochelle Juangco.

Before the contest began, customers and supporters were serenaded by the bar's resident singer, Joy Antonio, with Hapi Gabriel serving as the master of ceremonies

It wasn't just a one-off showdown among the finalists. Instead, the Karaoke Superstar grand finals consisted of three rounds. The first round consisted of solo performances, while the second round consisted of duets. The final round required each of the contestants to sing a ballad and an upbeat song.

The night's grand prize winner, Santiago, rocked the bar with his rendition of *The Prayer* and the Tagalog music *Dahil Sa Iyo* (Because of You). It was a spectacle to behold when he pulled off the duet in the song *The Prayer* with ease, shifting between the parts originally sung by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli.

What was different about this singing showdown was that there were other mini events in between such as raffles and a Mardi Gras costume contest.

In the middle of the program, several of the waitresses and staff put on colorful masks and outfits, with one of them winning $100 for her colorful personality and vibrant sunflower costume.

Santiago admitted to being nervous at the start of the final round. "After singing and enjoying my time with everyone, I feel grateful for this opportunity to be the first winner on their first anniversary. I'd like to congratulate them for making it this far. And I'd like to congratulate everyone as well!"

Butch Ordas, who is a co-owner of Bourbon Street Bar and Cafe, explained that the karaoke contest was in response to the need to stage a new attraction to offer to customers. He was surprised at the good turnout of the previous events leading up to the Karaoke Superstar grand finals.

"Moving forward in the coming days and months, more events will happen and we're hopeful that more people in the community will be aware of the happenings here at Bourbon," he added.

Ordas assured the public that there would be events that customers can look forward to such as singing contests, dance contests, and TikTok contests. He said events like these are "fun and at the same time, it helps bring people together, build community, and strengthen camaraderie."

RANIEL SANTOS

Bourbon Street Bar and Café Karaoke Superstar winner Donato Santiago serenades the crowd.

CPA, SMA appeal court orders

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority and Star Marianas Air Inc. have both asked the court to reconsider its order for partial summary judgment.

CPA, through attorney Robert T. Torres, has filed a motion to reconsider Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho's partial summary judgment, saying the court should modify its order.

SMA, through attorney Mark Scoggins, also filed its own motion for reconsideration, stating that the order denying partial summary judgment is erroneous in some ways and that reconsideration is necessary for these errors to be corrected.

According to Torres, as a matter of law, CPA's breaches of contract are immaterial breaches while SMA's failure to pay CPA is a material breach of contract.

"SMA's material breach of contract relieved CPA from its contractual obligations," he said.

The Superior Court has set the matter for a motion hearing on Dec. 12, 2023.

Camacho earlier granted in part and denied in part SMA's motion for summary judgment.

Specifically, partial summary judgment was granted after the court found that CPA breached sections 7.05 and 7.08 of the Airline Use Agreement, which pertains to annual usage rate adjustments and CPA's failure to provide SMA a copy of every CPA proposed annual budget since the AUA was executed up until it was terminated.

However, the court could not fully grant summary judgment because it found that damages could not be determined without further discovery as the court also found CPA's counterclaims to be true—that SMA also breached the AUA for non-payments.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Charges against Villanueva dismissed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The charges against a woman who was allegedly involved in a robbery at San Antonio beach over a week ago have been dismissed.

Villanueva

During a preliminary hearing yesterday, the Superior Court dismissed without prejudice. the case filed against Juanita Villanueva, but the Office of the Attorney General was given the opportunity to refile the charges against Villanueva if more evidence comes to light to prosecute her.

Villanueva was initially charged with robbery, principals and robbery, conspiracy and robbery, and theft.

As of press time, the Department of Public Safety remains on the lookout for Villanueva's co-conspirators who have yet to be identified.

Villanueva was one of three individuals allegedly involved in robbing a man at gunpoint last Oct. 15.

According to court documents, police responded last Oct. 15 to theft report made by a man who claimed he had been robbed.

The following day, Oct. 16, detective Joey Lizama met with the victim, Melecio Molina, during which he said that Villanueva had contacted him over 10 times on Oct. 15 asking him for money. Sometime after 7pm, he said he picked Villanueva up at the parking area across Pacific Islands Club Saipan. He noted that he saw her exit a black SUV-type car before coming over to his car.

However, sometime later, the victim said Villanueva refused to follow him to his house so they, instead, drove to the northernmost part of San Antonio beach just behind FMS where they reportedly had sex.

After that, the victim told police that he noticed car lights approaching his vehicle, during which Villanueva rushed him to give her money.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

November 2023 NAP issuance schedule

The Nutrition Assistance Program would like to advise all members of the public of its November issuance dates. In October, only one (1) number was issued daily. In November, there will be two (2) numbers issued daily.

NAP will issue benefits through walk-in service from 8aam to 3pm. The drive-up service is no longer offered.

The following is the issuance schedule for November.

- Nov. 1: Case record ID ending with 1 and 2;
- Nov. 2: Case record ID ending with 3 and 4;
- Nov. 6: Case record ID ending with 5 and 6;
- Nov. 7: Case record ID ending with 7 and 8;
- Nov. 8: Case record ID ending with 9 and 0;
- Nov. 9: Open day

NAP will adhere strictly to numbers scheduled on each day.

For inquiries, contact the Nutrition Assistance Program Office at (670) 237-2800. After Nov. 9, issuance hours will be from 8am to 12pm. ***(NAP)***

PALACIOS

From page 1

as representatives from key industries whose partnership have a considerable potential to benefit the CNMI and its people.

"As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is imperative that we recognize the incredible potential for business opportunities in Taiwan," Palacios said.

The delegation includes Senate vice president Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota); Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation; Rep. Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Natural Resources Committee; and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

According to the Office of the Governor, the CNMI has been invited by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam and Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or MOFA, to visit Taiwan from Oct. 30 to Nov. 4. The MOFA is funding the delegation's travel, accommodations, and transportation.

The U.S. State Department has approved Palacios' travel to Taiwan.

Palacios and the CNMI delegation are tentatively scheduled to meet with MOFA representatives and other key government leaders. They also have meetings with representatives from China Airlines (which is one of Taiwan's two major airlines), Taiwan Travel Authority, Taiwan utilities operators and construction companies, and the Taiwan SDA Hospital. The delegation will also attend the Taiwan Travel Fair.

The Office of the Governor said the visit aligns with Palacios' and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang's priorities in diversifying the CNMI's economy, cultivating new tourism markets, expanding foreign investment opportunities, and forging partnerships with public and private sector agencies of other countries. The private sector agencies include health providers and electric energy producers.

The CNMI delegation aims to enhance healthcare, infrastructure, utilities, travel and tourism, and transportation opportunities.

In addition, the delegation aims to strengthen cultural ties and preservation between the CNMI and Taiwan.

SENATE

From page 1

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) thanked acting Office of Planning and Development director Elizabeth Balajadia, OPS senior civil engineer Mariano Iglecias, and Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita for joining the session. DeLeon Guerrero said they had a thorough conversation and clarification from the three Executive Branch representatives.

Sen. Francisco Q. Dela Cruz (R-Tinian) said he was concerned at the start why Tinian and Rota are not included in the proposed Economic Development Authority projects, but understands that this bill is critical. He said he supports something that would benefit the CNMI and not only Saipan.

"I hope that we can spend all those $97 million and not lose the opportunity," the senator said.

When asked how many construction companies are affected by the touchback provision of the NMI U.S. Workforce Act, Balajadia said she believes all construction companies in the CNMI are affected by this. The touchback provision requires foreign workers in the CNMI to exit prior to the renewal of their third consecutive work contract.

Balajadia said, however, that majority of EDA projects right now are in the design phase. "Even if we complete the design, we're going to have to bid it out for construction and design may take up to six months to eight months," she said.

Balajadia said they would like to finish some of these projects in maybe four months from now.

"But yes. To answer your question, I think all of them are affected by the touchback," she said.

In their Aug. 14, 2023, letter to MPLT board of trustees chair Phillip Mendiola-Long, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang said the revolving line of credit will facilitate the construction progress of federally funded capital improvement and broadband infrastructure projects.

They said movement on these projects will also facilitate revenue generation from construction activities, thus supporting revenue generation and tax collection.

FEMA

From page 1

Guerrero said over the weekend that, in order for the CNMI Legislature to ensure that the $367.4-million obligated federal share is received by the CNMI government, the CNMI Governor's Authorized Representative need only give them a simple "yes or no" confirmation.

She said her office is also assuming that $125.9 million is the balance from the $367.4 million FEMA obligation, which again requires them to seek confirmation from the CNMI GAR.

DeLeon Guerrero filed a FOIA request last September to obtain information about FEMA reimbursements for CNMI expenditures related to disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In her FOIA filing to Washington, D.C., DeLeon Guerrero requested for documents regarding FEMA's reimbursements for CNMI expenditures since 2018 pertaining to Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

She also requested for, among other things, information about the actual FEMA reimbursement payments to the CNMI.

Myra Campbell, who is the lead government information specialist for the FEMA Information Management Division Disclosure Branch, responded to DeLeon Guerrero's FOIA request last Oct. 20. The Senate received the response last Oct. 23.

The Senate president told *Saipan Tribune* that she is grateful for FEMA's quick response as the report provides clarity on the cost submitted for reimbursements and how much has been received so far as approved reimbursements.

She said they now must work with the Executive Branch in validating the FOIA numbers and how these reimbursed expenses are being recorded in the CNMI's fiscal year books and if they are subject to appropriations by the legislature.

DeLeon Guerrero said she is now working with the Senate's lawyer to review the legal applicability of subjecting these reimbursements as appropriation funds.

She said the main concern over the $367.4 million is how much has been received as reimbursement by fiscal years 2018 to 2024 as of Oct. 24, 2023 and how were the reimbursed funds used and distributed in the general funds and amongst other government funds.

MEMORIAM

From page 1

The ceremony, which was attended by many dignitaries and officials, involved lighting several candles to honor the departed souls, the recitation of prayers and the offering of commemorative wreaths at the site.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt Gov. David M Apatang, Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, and former governor Juan N. Babauta, were joined at the ceremony by Mayor Tomonori Ito of Saipan sister-city Katori in Japan, who was coincidentally on Saipan for the Japanese Autumn Festival and the Katori Shrine ceremony at the Sugar King Park.

The Marianas Memorial Monument was completed on June 13, 2004, a project organized by Babauta when he was still the the CNMI's representative in Washington, D.C. Babauta was also responsible for the commemorative recognition of 50 Marianas Marine Scouts who served in the U.S. Marines as scouts after the war.

In his remarks last Friday, Babauta said that as long as they are able to, they will continue to remember and commemorate these lives that were lost in the war.

"Assembled at this very location in 2004, this community prayed that this would be a living memorial and that it will forever be a reminder for generations to come of the lessons that they who perished taught you, and as a reminder of the paradox of war. …From it, however, there is hope that these pristine waters and white beaches will never again be bloodied, and that peace will always prevail," he said.

The ceremony was followed by the laying of wreaths at the courtyard and the lighting of candles.

The 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council organized the event. The posting and retiring of colors were done by the Kagman High School's JROTC color guard, and the Marianas High School Glee Club filled the event with solemn song.

AWARDS

From page 2

fall 2020. He is a biology major with a concentration in cell and molecular biology. Dayao intends to pursue masters studies when he graduates in May 2024.

Dayao graduated class valedictorian from Grace Christian Academy Class of 2020. He is the son of Jun and Mirasol Dayao, formerly from Navy Hill, Saipan. ***(PR)***

More NMC nursing grads successfully pass NCLEX-RN

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Minju Kim and Ysabella Sacramento have joined the long list of NMC students who have taken and passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or.

Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to be able to practice nursing in the United States and U.S. territories. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are capable of applying entry level nursing practices correctly.

"It's great to see more and more NMC nursing graduates pass the challenging NCLEX-RN," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said. "I congratulate Minju and Ysabella on this accomplishment."

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan likewise congratulated the two on their successful passage of the exam.

"Minju and Ysabella have bright futures in the nursing field and we expect to see great things from them as their educational and professional journeys continue," Aldan said.

NMC

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Minju Kim, left, and Ysabella Sacramento.

Kim, a 2023 NMC nursing graduate, decided to pursue nursing as it has always been a dream of hers. "I want to become a nurse to help people. It's as simple as that," Kim said. "I feel a strong calling to care for others, and nursing is the way I can make a difference in people's lives when they need it the most."

Dedicating a significant amount of time preparing and studying for the NCLEX-RN, Kim recalled utilizing textbooks, class notes, NCLEX study materials, and practice tests in order to identify the areas in which she needed to improve.

She noted how she felt well prepared for the exam, "NMC did a good job preparing me for the exam. They provided resources like Kaplan and i-Human that were very helpful."

Additionally, Kim gained support from her professors and classmates throughout her journey toward passing the exam. "They provided guidance, answered questions, and offered encouragement throughout the process," she stated. "For that, I am greatly appreciative of what the Nursing Program has done to prepare me for this exam, and I would like to extend my gratitude to the Nursing faculty and staff who went above and beyond in teaching and helping us throughout the program."

In advice to nursing students looking to take the NCLEX-RN, Kim offers three key tips, which are to start early, avoid comparisons, and stay focused. "Remember, you've worked hard to get to this point, and you can succeed in the NCLEX. Stay dedicated, stay confident, and give it your best effort," Kim said.

Kim began working at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. this week as a registered nurse in the Pediatric Unit.

Graduating from NMC's nursing program in 2023 alongside Kim, Sacramento's motivation for pursuing nursing stems from her passion to take care of people and make positive differences in their lives.

"I wouldn't have passed the NCLEX without the support of my family, partner, relatives, and friends. I owe it to them for their endless support and for always believing in me," Sacramento said.

According to her, the NMC nursing program had contributed greatly to her passing the NCLEX-RN by helping her enhance her knowledge, skills, and critical thinking skills that are essential to nursing through lectures, clinical rotations, Kaplan resources, and i-Human patient case studies.

To nursing students that are looking to take the NCLEX-RN, Sacramento advises them to believe in their own capabilities and to not be so hard on themselves. "You also need to be in the right mindset while studying, so taking care of yourself physically and mentally should be a priority," she said. "It is highly important that you study and concentrate, but as simple as taking a break from time to time will allow you to gain more perspective and will definitely help you be more confident in passing the NCLEX."

Sacramento is currently working at CHCC as a registered nurse in the Labor and Delivery Unit.

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6744. ***(NMC)***

THIS HALLOWEEN
THE SCARIEST THING
YOU CAN BE IS A
DRUNK DRIVER
buzzed driving is drunk driving
NHTSA
DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER
For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety
SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9350
www.dps.gov.mp
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

USCIS announces filing location change for CNMI-related forms

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said beginning Nov. 1, 2023, all H-2A, H-2B, CNMI-related Form I-129 petitions, Form I-129CW petitions, and CNMI-related Form I-539 applications must be filed directly at the Texas Service Center.

To allow the public time to transition to filing at the Texas Service Center, there will be a 60-day grace period for forms filed at the California Service Center or Vermont Service Center, during which misdirected forms will not be rejected. After the 60-day grace period, on and after Jan. 1, 2024, we will reject H-2A, H-2B, CNMI-related Form I-129 petitions, Form I-129CW petitions, and CNMI-related Form I-539 applications if they are filed at the CSC or VSC.

Previously, all H-2A, CNMI-related Form I-129 petitions and Form I-129CW petitions, were filed at the CSC, and H-2B-related Form I-129 petitions were filed at the VSC and CSC.

USCIS will reject any of these petitions and applications if they are received at the Texas Service Center before Nov. 1.

The petitions and applications should be mailed to the Texas Service Center at the following addresses:

Form	New Address - USPS	New Address - FedEx, UPS, DHL deliveries
I-129 H-2A	USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2A 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 117 Irving, TX 75038-0018	USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2A 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 117 Irving, TX 75038-0001
I-129 H-2B (not including H-2B Guam petitions)	**Non-premium:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2B 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 118 Irving, TX 75038-0018 **I-907/Premium Processing:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2B Premium Processing 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 907 Irving, TX 75038-0022	**Non-premium:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2B 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 118 Irving, TX 75038-0001 **I-907/Premium Processing:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2B Premium Processing 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 907 Irving, TX 75038-0001
I-129 H-2B Guam	**Non-premium:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2B Guam 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 118 Irving, TX 75038-0018 **I-907/Premium Processing:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2B Guam Premium Processing 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 907 Irving, TX 75038-0022	**Non-premium:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2B Guam 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 118 Irving, TX 75038-0001 **I-907/Premium Processing:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 H2B Guam Premium Processing 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 907 Irving, TX 75038-0001
I-129CW	USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129CW 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 116 Irving, TX 75038-0018	USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129CW 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 116 Irving, TX 75038-0001
I-129 CNMI	USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 CNMI 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 129 Irving, TX 75038-0013	USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 CNMI 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 129 Irving, TX 75038-0001
I-539 CNMI	**Non-premium:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-539 CNMI 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 119 Irving, TX 75038-0018 **Premium Processing:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 CNMI Premium Processing 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 907 Irving, TX 75038-0022	**Non-premium:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-539 CNMI 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 119 Irving, TX 75038-0001 **Premium Processing:** USCIS Texas Service Center Attn: I-129 CNMI Premium Processing 6046 N Belt Line Rd. STE 907 Irving, TX 75038-0001

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: October 31, 2023 CLOSING DATE: November 15, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2024-001	CDBG-DR Administrative Specialist	$25,000.00-$30,000.00 - per annum- UNGRADED
2024-002	CDBG-DR Account	$25,000.00-$30,000.00 per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: October 31, 2023 CLOSING DATE: November 30, 2032 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary
2024-003	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	$70,000.00 to $80,000.00 per annum (UNGRADED)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NOTICE of DEADLINE for COMMENTS

for Grid Modernization

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (OGA) (1 CMC§ Section 9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) hereby informs the general public that a public hearing on **Friday, October 27, 2023**, at **4:30 PM** in the **CUC Conference Room** was held for a public presentation on the implementation for *grid modernization*. Projects under the plan are funded under the *U.S. Department of Energy (DOE): Preventing Outage and Enhancing in the Resilience of the Electric Grid.*

The purpose of the public hearing was to inform the general public of CUC's proposed solution for energy reliability and energy accessibility which will be implemented through CUC's grid modernization implementation plan. The demand for high quality power delivery services is part of CUC's corporate mission and CUC acknowledges the need to strive for continual improvement in the delivery of power services.

CUC would like to thank the community members who attended the public hearing and for providing comments on this project.

Interested parties may submit comments for this project to **Adrian Reyes, Project Manager**, at **adrian.reyes@cucgov.org** with the subject line titled, **"Comments for Public Hearing: Grid Modernization."** The deadline to submit comments is by **4:30 PM** on **Friday, November 3, 2023.**

Third Floor,
Joeten Dandan Building
P.O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950

T: (670) 664-4282
www.cucgov.org

NOAA invites students to enter art contest

Students in grades K through 12 have been invited to celebrate threatened and endangered species in the Pacific Islands region with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's annual art contest.

Winning artwork will be featured in an exhibition and online.

For 50 years, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been protecting species and the places they live under the Endangered Species Act.

This fall, NOAA Fisheries invites K–12 students to enter its ESA@50 Ocean Art Contest to celebrate a half century of conservation efforts.

NOAA Fisheries is looking for art that showcases threatened or endangered marine species in the Pacific Islands region. This includes hawksbill turtles, blue whales, giant manta rays and more in:

- American Samoa
- Hawai'i
- Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NOAA Fisheries encourages participants to explore facts about the species they choose to represent, such as appearance, behavior, habitat and threats to their survival.

The contest is now open, and the submission deadline is:

- Hawai'i: 11:59pm HST on Nov. 30, 2023
- American Samoa: 11:59pm SST on Nov. 30, 2023
- CNMI and Guam: 11:59pm ChST on Dec. 1, 2023

NOAA Fisheries will announce contest winners publicly on Dec. 28—the official 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. They will honor winners with a public art exhibition and awards presentation in 2024.

For more information on how to enter, visit the contest information page https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/pacific-islands-esa50-ocean-art-contest). ***(NOAA)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-005-23
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2023-01-02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 27, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport or at the CPA Office located at the Francisco Manglona Borja/ Tinian International Airport. CPA offices are closed every other Monday beginning Monday, October 2, 2023 for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts of the advertisement area and other requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Tinian Port Manager, Antonio L. Borja through email at alborja@cnmiports.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than October 11, 2023.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-005-23." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 31, 2023, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 31, 2023, at 3:00p.m. at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

9/25/2023
Date

IN SAIPAN HUMANE SOCIETY EVENT

2 puppies adopted, over 60 bags of pet food given away

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Humane Society volunteers at the Sabalu Market in the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Humane Society had a booth at the Sabalu Market in the Garapan Fishing Base on Saturday mornings where they distributed free pet food and featured adoptable dogs and cats.

The Saipan Humane Society hosted a heartwarming and successful adoption and pet food distribution event last Saturday as part of their ongoing commitment to support the local community and its beloved furry companions.

The event took place during the Sabalu Market at the Garapan Fishing Base from 7am to 11am and saw two puppies finding loving forever homes and over 60 bags of pet food distributed to residents.

The first 10 bags were handed out within just five minutes, illustrating the significant demand for affordable pet food on the island.

Ruby Ma, clinic manager of Saipan Humane Society, expressed her enthusiasm for the event, stating, "We always heard that there's usually a shortage of dog food on the island, and the price is high, so we would like to offer any help within our ability to the community."

She extended her gratitude to the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, Sector Guam, and Guam Animal In Need for their generous donations. She also acknowledged the Boonie Flight Project for coordinating the logistics from Guam to Saipan in May of this year, which facilitated the distribution of vital supplies.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Humane Society clinic manager Ruby Ma, right, and an adopter pose for a photo at the Sabalu Market in the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday.

Notably, The Shack store manager MaryJane Sikebert and three staff members joined as volunteers during the event, exemplifying the collaborative spirit within the community. They actively engaged in socializing the dogs and puppies, packing pet food for distribution, and explaining how to stay updated with SHS through social media.

Sikebert emphasized their commitment, saying, "As the Shack, we'll do our very best to get more involved and help out as much as we can."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A community member holds up the free pet food distributed by the Saipan Humane Society at the Sabalu Market in the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday.

Saipan Humane Society is excited to announce that they will be hosting another adoption and food distribution event at the Shack on Nov. 25. The organization encourages people to stay connected and informed by following them on their Facebook and Instagram pages (@saipanhumanesociety) for further details and updates on their upcoming initiatives.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Shack manager MaryJane Sikebert is seen at the Saipan Humane Society booth at the Sabalu Market in the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday.

The Saipan Humane Society remains dedicated to its mission of improving the welfare of animals and strengthening the bonds between pets and their human companions. Through events like these, they are not only finding forever homes for animals but also addressing essential needs in the community. Their ongoing efforts are a testament to the power of collective goodwill and the impact it can have on the lives of those in need. ***(PR)***

UOG workshops for caregivers of persons with dementia continue

The University of Guam's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is continuing to offer an opportunity for caregivers of persons with dementia to participate in an online training and certification program called CARES Activities of Daily Living. This award-winning program teaches caregivers how to help persons with dementia with the fundamental activities of daily living across all stages of dementia.

The training program includes 10 modules:

1. Dementia and the CARES Approach;
2. Creating Meaning in Activities of Daily Living;
3. Recognizing and Managing Pain;
4. Bathing;
5. Dressing;
6. Eating;
7. Grooming;
8. Mouth Care;
9. Using the Bathroom; and
10. Mobility, Transferring, and Positioning.

Participants who complete all 10 modules will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible for CARES Dementia Certification.

Upcoming modules in November:

Module 3: Recognizing and Managing Pain

■ 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, Nov. 8, or

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, Nov. 11

Module 4: Bathing

■ 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, Nov. 15 or

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, Nov. 18

Module 5: Dressing

■ 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, Nov. 29 or

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, Dec. 2

St. Dominic's Senior Care Home

In the first week of November, Kate Keisling, LNHA, acting administrator for St. Dominic's Senior Care Home, will present two sessions on St. Dominic's residential services for seniors, including persons with dementia. These sessions will be held:

■ 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, Nov. 1

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, Nov. 4

Sharing caregiver stories and finding support

In the fourth week of November, two session will provide participants with an opportunity to share their experiences as family caregivers of persons with dementia and to receive support and guidance from other members of the group. These sessions will be held:

■ 6pm to 8pm, Wednesday, Nov. 22

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, Nov. 25

Participants can attend the Wednesday or Saturday sessions using the following Zoom links:

■ Wednesday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/92072878067

■ Saturday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

Ongoing dementia support groups

These sessions are part of the ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the UOG School of Health. The support group sessions are held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings year-round. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

For more information, contact:

■ Dr. Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez

Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

Telehealth Geriatric Support Services

University of Guam

Tel: (671) 735-2883

Email: gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu

■ Rhoda Orallo

Health Services of the Pacific

Tel: (671) 735-3277

Email: r.orallo@hspguam.com ***(UOG)***

Opinion

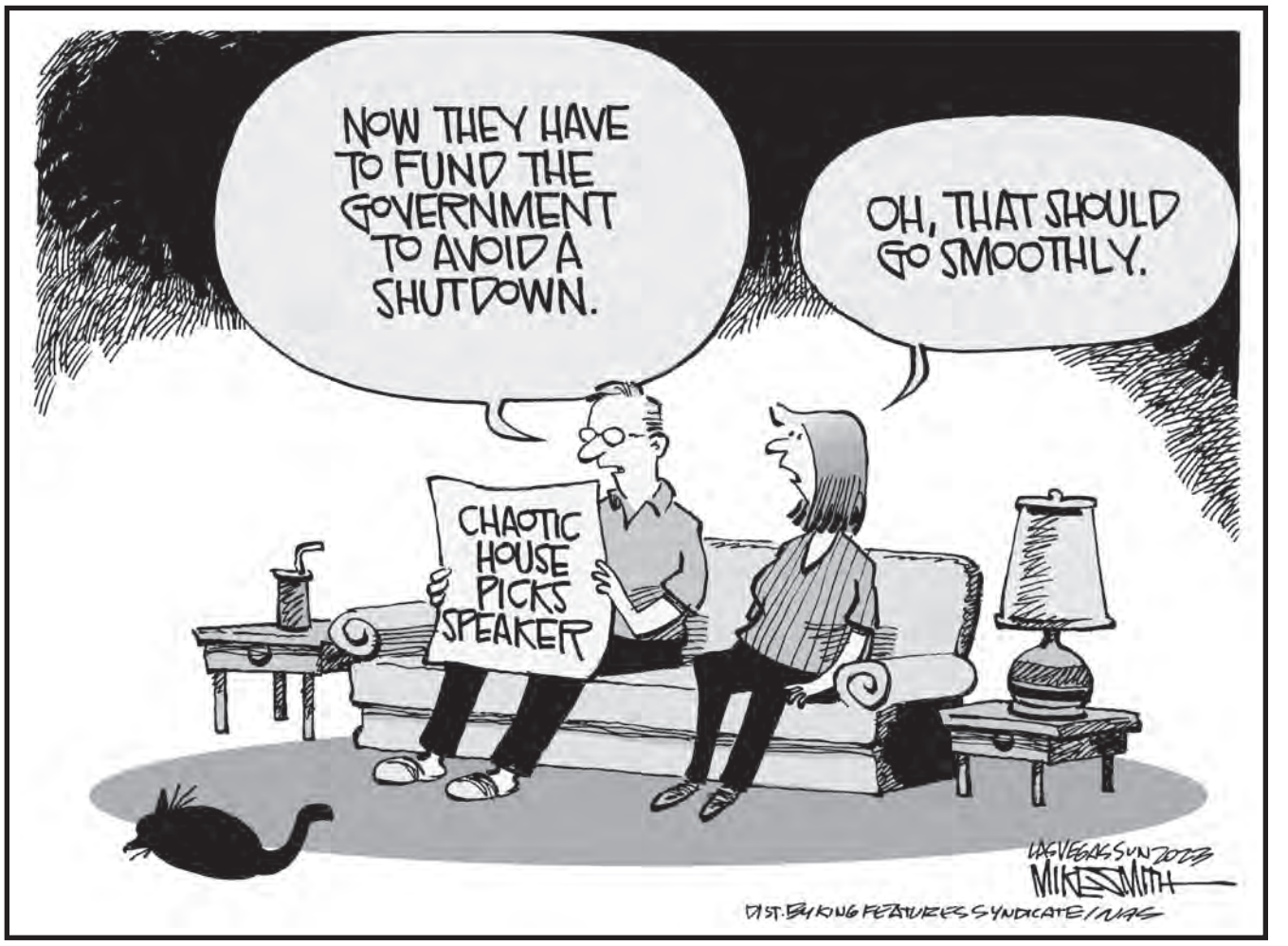
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 216

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


NOW THEY HAVE TO FUND THE GOVERNMENT TO AVOID A SHUTDOWN.
OH, THAT SHOULD GO SMOOTHLY.
CHAOTIC HOUSE PICKS SPEAKER
LAS VEGAS SUN 2023
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

EDITORIAL

With a speaker of the House finally in place, it's time for the GOP to get down to governing

In the end, after three weeks of embarrassing paralysis simply trying to find someone from their ranks to lead the House of Representatives, GOP members settled on someone unfamiliar to most of the country.

Louisiana Rep. Mike Johnson is our new speaker of the House. A member since only 2016, Johnson ascended anyway, probably due as much to simple exhaustion as anything else.

On the surface, his selection isn't encouraging, given the need for compromise to get the people's business done. Johnson voted against keeping the government open until Nov. 17, the bill that ultimately did in Kevin McCarthy as speaker. He also opposed aid to Ukraine, not once but twice. Ridiculous.

Johnson is ardently anti-abortion and a fierce foe of gay marriage, positions with which we differ. He's hawkish to a fault on the fiscal front. When he headed the Republican Study Committee, it released a 10-year plan to balance the budget that, among other things, proposed ending Medicare as we know it and turning it into a "premium support system."

Most worrisome of all, he's an enthusiastic proponent of Donald Trump's continuing challenge to the results of the 2020 election. Johnson played a key advisory role in the run-up to Jan. 6 and was among the 146 who opposed certifying the election. He has yet to acknowledge that Joe Biden won the election fair and square, three years after the fact. Also ridiculous.

Johnson's unlikely promotion occurred only after Minnesota Rep. Tom Emmer's nomination by his Republican colleagues to be speaker collapsed following Trump's stated opposition on his Truth Social network. There were the usual disparagements such as "globalist RINO" in Trump's post, but only the naive could believe Trump's opposition centered on anything other than Emmer's vote to certify the 2020 election and rejection of the big lie.

So Emmer was a no-go thanks to the leader's commands. That left Johnson, whom Trump blessed with his support. We cannot overstate how much we despise Trump's ongoing influence and meddling in Republican business.

Surrounded by his Republican colleagues Tuesday in his appearance before reporters shortly following his selection as speaker, Johnson was asked about helping lead the efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. He smiled wanly and shook his head while North Carolina Rep. Virginia Foxx yelled twice at the reporter to "shut up." "Next question," he said.

Not a good start. Johnson, like the unrelated Johnson running Chicago, needs to learn to answer reasonable questions.

Still, there's always the possibility that an unknown Johnson can grow, now that he's assumed a leadership post. It's different to be in charge of the House—the job isn't just to lead the party in the majority; it's to direct the chamber—rather than serving as one of 435, taking red-meat positions

See WITH on Page 9

Visitor safety is public safety

MAKING TOURISM OUR BUSINESS

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In all my personal and business travels around the world, safety has always been a paramount concern of mine. Thankfully I've never been a victim of serious crime in my travels. For most visitors, safety and security are top-of-mind when choosing their next destination.

For the purposes of today's discussion in this space, let's set aside considerations of personal health security, which during the coronavirus pandemic shut down travel worldwide. This leaves low-level public disorder, political unrest, and terrorism, which all pose a threat both to the tourist industry and to the wider economy. For the Marianas, we are largely and thankfully spared from these threats, as well. But what we do face is direct crime against visitors, which is—at its base—a threat to the public safety of us all.

To help protect visitors and their property, the MVA produces multi-language safety tip videos that are shared with tourists on The Visitors Channel on local cable TV and via other platforms. We agree there is still work to be done to help prevent crimes against our visitors. At the same time, we must acknowledge steps being made in the right direction. In June I met with Department. of Public Safety Commissioner Clement Bermudes—then also only a few months in his post—to discuss the need for greater protection of our visitors in main tourist district of Garapan and at our more popular tourist sites. To his commendation, Commissioner Bermudes responded favorably and promptly to these concerns. In August, DPS re-established a permanent presence in Garapan with the reopening of its police substation and its bike patrol, putting officers back in personal touch with residents, businesses, visitors, and others in the area.

> "Just like visitors, we want to be safe wherever we go in our community, and we want our property to be safe, too."

In addition, DPS has expanded its periodic patrols to our major tourist sites of Marpi. For several years, the MVA had contracted private security services for Banzai Cliff, Grotto, Last Command Post, Bird Island Lookout, Suicide Cliff, Laulau Beach dive site, and Obyan Beach dive site, largely due to the rash of car break-ins at these sites. Unfortunately, based on legal advice that the MVA does not have jurisdiction to execute contracts for those lands, the MVA was forced to end its security services a few years ago. The proactive patrols by DPS are much appreciated and helpful. However, the best deterrent is still for the public department or agency with jurisdiction to provide a physical person at each of these sites throughout the whole day. This person could also serve as an information resource, report maintenance problems, and assist with keeping the site and bathrooms tidy. We know this was a successful model under the MVA's previous contracts.

H.B. 23-63, the "Digital Closed Circuit Television Camera Act of 2023" proposes for all businesses to install CCTV cameras at all entries. As stated in our comments on the bill, the MVA commends the House of Representatives for taking up the important concern of public safety. However, from the perspective of crimes against visitors and in consideration of return-on-investment, the greatest need for CCTV is at our tourist sites. This is where a majority of crimes are committed against our visitors. Strategic locations along major roadways would also be an effective place to place cameras. It is our understanding that a donation of CCTV cameras was made earlier this year to the government by a local internet service provider; the immediate installation of these cameras would be a cost-efficient way to quickly move forward with enhancing public safety.

Relative to many other travel destinations, many would consider the Marianas to be generally "safe." But I think most of us are not satisfied with "generally safe." Just like visitors, we want to be safe *wherever* we go in our community, and we want our property to be safe too. There has been some discussion in the past of increasing the penalty of crimes committed in tourist sites. To provide a true deterrent against visitors, I propose this should be expanded to increasing penalties for crimes committed against tourists *anywhere* in the Marianas.

None of us want to be a victim, and most of us do not want our guests to become victims either. Across the public and private sector, there is more we can do collectively in "Making Tourism Our Business" by protecting our visitors from crime.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Republican hate for LGBTQ+ people fueled Mike Johnson's rise to be House speaker

By LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

The older I get, the more reminders I see that Maya Angelou was right: "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time."

Take the new House speaker, Mike Johnson, for instance.

He's been showing who he is since 1998, when he graduated from law school and started going after the LGBTQ+ community every chance he could. And I'm not just talking about trying to stop same-sex marriage, because let's face it, many progressives were against it back then as well. But Johnson was extreme by comparison—advocating for laws that banned two adults from having consensual sex in their own home.

So, to anyone who considers themselves an ally of the LGBTQ+ community, know this: Same-sex marriage and other protections are not safe.

Johnson,, R-La., has made attacking the queer community a huge part of his life's work. We don't yet know his style as a leader in the House, but we know exactly where he intends to go.

And judging from how the speaker selection process played out over the weeks after the ouster of Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., the Republican Party looks more than willing to go after the queer community with him. Of the three speaker nominations before Johnson's, the fastest one to collapse was that of House Majority Whip Tom Emmer of Minnesota. It lasted barely four hours. One of the key issues cited by his opposition: his support of same-sex marriage.

"I told him it wasn't between he and I," said Rep. Rick Allen, R-Ga., about why he opposed Emmer. "It was between he and the teachings of Jesus Christ."

For some reason, I don't think Allen meant "love your neighbor as yourself."

No, conservatives like him and Johnson tend to use Christianity as justification for anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination. The powerful players within this huge wing of the Republican Party do not, however, seem to take great issue with other "sins" such as adultery.

Author Jeff Sharlet has written multiple books on the inner workings of a collective of powerful Republican politicians, some of whom share a townhouse in Washington that was the site of not only prayer groups but also apparently extramarital affairs. The New Yorker dubbed it a "frat house for Jesus." It takes a very special reading of the Bible to land on "jail gay people" and "extramarital affairs are OK" at the same time.

"The Family," as the group is called, is also tied to the passage of anti-gay legislation in Romania and Uganda, which now sentences LGBTQ+ people to death and imprisons anyone who fails to report a queer person to the government.

I am not sure how the "fiscally conservative, socially liberal" crowd will process all of this information come the 2024 election, especially if there's a promise of tax cuts bundled up with the distasteful discrimination. However, given how this nation continues to struggle with not only LGBTQ+ rights but also racial and gender equity, I'm not too optimistic.

In 2021, not long after the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, Johnson gave a talk to a group of congressional staffers as part of the Faith and Law lecture series. The bipartisan organization is like a think tank for Christians working on the Hill. Johnson, a Trump ally who tried to overturn the 2020 election on his behalf, listed "the rule of law" second among his seven core conservative principles.

He listed "individual freedom" and "limited government" as first and third—despite wanting laws to ban sex between two consenting adults in their own home.

Beyond his run-of-the-mill doubletalk, the line that caught my attention most was this one: "I'm doing the same thing I used to do back in the late '90s."

Remember he graduated from law school in 1998. That is also the year a young gay man in Wyoming, Matthew Shepard, was brutally beaten, tied to a fence and left to die. That tragic story dominated the news for months. And Johnson started his legislative crusade against LGBTQ+ people in the wake of that tragedy.

That is what Johnson was doing back in the late '90s. He may not be a household name yet, but he is not an unknown. He showed us exactly who he was the first time.

So take Maya Angelou's advice and believe him.

With US House speaker fight over, the real chaos begins

By DANIEL BORENSTEIN
The Mercury News

Daniel Borenstein is editorial page editor for The Mercury News and East Bay Times.

The unprecedented three-week Republican search for a new House speaker ended Wednesday. Now the real chaos begins.

In the end, GOP members unified behind Rep. Mike Johnson, a little-known social conservative who supports a national abortion ban, opposes federal recognition of same-sex marriages and led efforts to overturn the 2020 election results.

It should serve as a stark reminder that much of the nation doesn't share the political values of the Bay Area and most of California. That Donald Trump is now fully in control of the Republican Party. And that any hopes that moderate Republicans and moderate Democrats could somehow unify behind a speaker and work on bipartisan solutions were fantasy.

Johnson, in his first remarks after the vote electing him speaker, promised Republicans would "serve the people of this country. We're going to restore their faith in this Congress."

But it's doubtful he means all the people. It remains to be seen whether he will work with Democrats or without them. Whether he will work with all Republicans or only those who hew to the expanding MAGA wing of the party.

Whether he plans to negotiate with President Biden, a tactic that led to the ouster of Johnson's predecessor, Kevin McCarthy, or work to block compromise.

Johnson emphasized that "the world is on fire, we stand by our ally Israel." But noticeably absent was any mention of Ukraine, for which President Biden is seeking more funding that Johnson has opposed. That fight will be part of the upcoming budget battle as the federal government faces a shutdown Nov. 17, when the short-term deal President Biden signed at the end of September expires.

The election of Johnson demonstrates how far right the House has swung. Fearful of primary challenges from the conservative wing, moderate House members, who are receding in numbers, could only stand their ground so long.

Last week, the moderates blocked the bid by Rep. Jim Jordan, a Trump loyalist and election-denier, to become speaker. But they ran out of energy to withstand the latest right-wing maneuver. So, in Johnson, they ended up with another Trump loyalist and election-denier.

It was the culmination of an amazing right-wing power play. In the narrowly divided House three weeks ago, the ultraconservatives, led by Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, leveraged just eight GOP votes and Democrats' disdain for McCarthy to oust the sitting speaker.

They then headed off two other Republican nominees for speaker, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana and Minority Whip Tom Emmer of Indiana, never bringing their candidacies to a floor vote.

The speakership battle would have gone on indefinitely unless moderate Republicans were willing to strike a deal with Democrats or acquiesce to the hard conservatives. For most moderates, the former would have been political-primary suicide. So eventually they caved to the latter.

In the end, House Republicans landed on Johnson, who has no experience in top-tier GOP leadership. As a result, a minority of the House, a subset of the narrow Republican majority, has taken control of the lower chamber of Congress. And that Republican majority exists only because of Republican gerrymandering across the country, made possible because the GOP outmaneuvered Democrats in state legislative races.

For Californians, and especially here in the uber-liberal Bay Area, the politics of the Republican-controlled House will feel foreign. Right now, they have a backstop in the razor-thin Democratic control of the Senate and their leader in the White House.

Democrats are fortunate that, at least so far, their 80-year-old president has remained healthy. And they're lucky that the late-Sen. Dianne Feinstein came from a blue state where the governor could appoint her successor.

But as long as Republicans control the House—and Trump-backed conservatives are calling the shots—the Washington standoff will continue. The no-compromise speakership fight might have been just a warmup.

WITH

From page 8

to please the folks back home.

Johnson's northwest Louisiana district couldn't be any redder. Democrats didn't even bother to run anyone against him in 2022.

And in the end this Congress isn't going to pass legislation restricting abortion or overhauling Medicare or accomplishing virtually any of the goals of the handful of members who jettisoned McCarthy.

Over the next 12 months before voters again choose a president, Johnson has a few jobs to get done. First, he must keep the government open. Encouragingly, he's already expressed support to extend funding until January or April to give time to appropriators to compile bills making funding choices.

If Congress could pass individual spending bills, that in and of itself would be remarkable. With the two parties in pitched camps for years, Congress has grown used to passing omnibus spending legislation. Some might remember when appropriations subcommittees would decide on how much to spend on specific departments and programs. That's how the process is supposed to work.

Of course, that process by its nature necessitates bipartisanship. Neither party has full control in Washington, tantrum throwers notwithstanding.

The second major task is to approve aid to Israel and Ukraine. Republicans very much support the Israeli aid; many oppose more money to Ukraine. Supporting both countries in our view is clearly in the interest of the U.S. as the world bites its nails before these geopolitical storms. Johnson has voted against aid for Ukraine in the past. What will he do now that people outside of his district are paying attention?

Much is at stake. The circus the GOP just went through to settle on Johnson doesn't only negatively affect the reputation of the Republican Party. It further undermines what remains of public confidence in our institutions to attend to urgent national business. And that's true at home and abroad.

So which lesson will Johnson and the rest of the House Republicans take from this spectacle just concluded?

One possibility is that straying one whit from the agenda of the most conservative member of the caucus is perilous to your political future. That would be the McCarthy experience.

The other, which hopefully the House GOP will internalize for the nation's sake, is to eschew fealty to a fringe minority and let leaders lead.

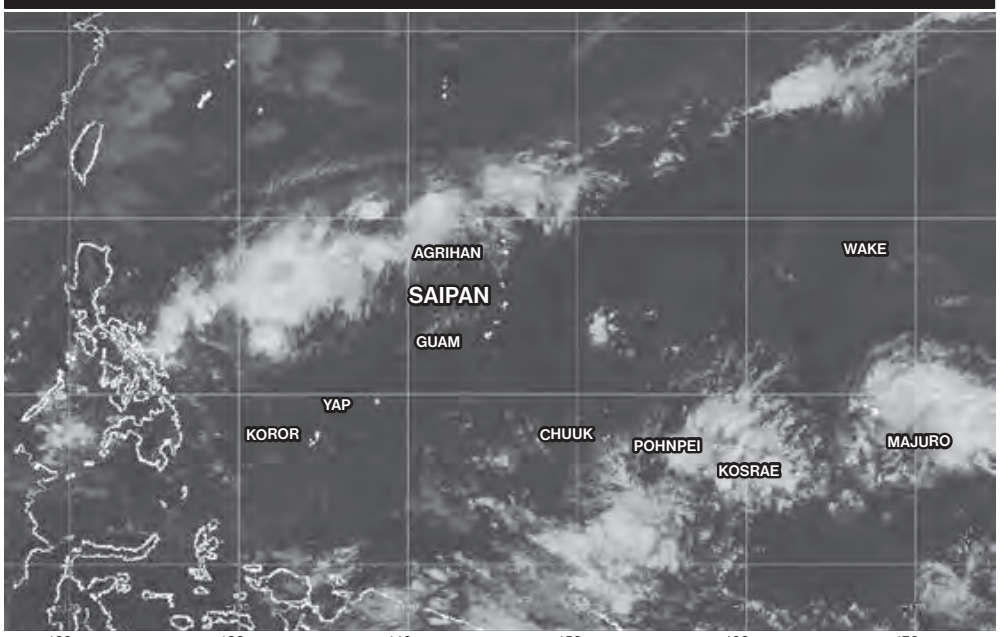
©2023 Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87 / 79°	87 / 79°	89 / 79°	89 / 79°	88 / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:36 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A ridge of high pressure will build over the local area today and will keep showers to a minimum today and tonight. A surface trough now east of 150E will move west and bring scattered showers to the Marianas Tuesday and Tuesday night. Another ridge will build over the islands in the wake of this trough. Deep-layer moisture will be low with the ridge and showers will remain isolated Wednesday though Saturday night. A surface trough will bring a higher chance of showers and thunderstorms Sunday,

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 57°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	63° / 39°
Hong Kong	Sunny	77° / 68°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	54° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 60°
Manila	Showers	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	75° / 67°
New York	Windy	58° / 50°
Osaka	Sunny	64° / 48°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	64° / 50°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	64° / 42°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 49°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	61° / 43°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°
Washington, DC	Sunny	58° / 43°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Wednesday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:14 AM	7:42 PM
Wednesday	-	9:14 AM	8:36 PM
Thursday	-	10:12 AM	9:31 PM
Friday	-	11:06 AM	10:27 PM
Saturday	-	11:56 AM	11:21 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:03 AM	Low Tide	-0.45
9:58 AM	High Tide	1.86
3:30 PM	Low Tide	1.09
8:16 PM	High Tide	1.81

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

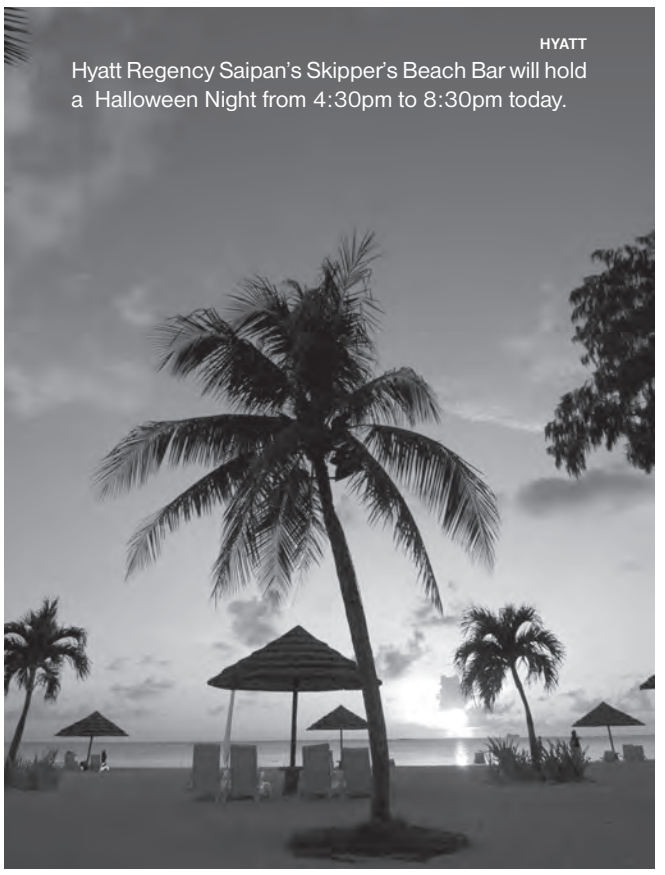
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Day of trick or treat at Hyatt Regency Saipan

Celebrate this Halloween with your kids at Hyatt Regency Saipan. Sweet treats will be available throughout the hotel for all hotel guests up to 12 years of age from 11am to 6pm. Make sure to say, "trick or treat!"

Not had enough time to shop for that special Halloween costume or masks? Hyatt has the perfect solution.



HYATT

Hyatt Regency Saipan's Skipper's Beach Bar will hold a Halloween Night from 4:30pm to 8:30pm today.

HYATT

Bloody Martini, one of the three special Halloween Cocktails available at Skipper's Beach Bar on Oct. 31, 2023 from 4:30pm to 8:30pm.

All Hyatt Regency Saipan guests are invited a free face-painting event on Halloween day from 4pm to 6pm at the lobby. Don't miss this chance to enjoy Halloween in style with an instant Halloween makeover from local artists, Victoria and Quinn.

Stop by DJ's Corner to peruse their excellent selection of wines, liquor, and the famous Tony's Belgium chocolates. Don't forget to check out our wine of the month. For your dining pleasure, Kili Café will be offering ala carte options.

A Halloween highlight awaits you by the beach. Skipper's Beach Bar Halloween Night from 4:30pm to 8:30pm. Whet your appetite for the spooky night with special Halloween cocktails that are guaranteed to add zest to your night. Wear your most creative costume while enjoying three different Halloween cocktails and enter Hyatt's Instagram contest for a chance to win a one-night stay at Hyatt's ocean view room. Participants must be in costume and order the special Halloween cocktail and follow Hyatt Regency Saipan Instagram page.

Take a selfie and post the photo on Instagram in costume with cocktail and tag Hyatt Regency Saipan. Please make a post, no stories or reels. The participant with most likes wins. Only one winner for this contest and the winner will be announced on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023 through Hyatt Regency Saipan's Instagram post.

Come sip in the spooky Halloween with Hyatt Regency Saipan, where you are more than a guest. ***(Hyatt)***

UAW escalates strike against lone holdout GM

DETROIT (AP)—The United Auto Workers union has widened its strike against General Motors, the lone holdout among the three Detroit automakers, after reaching a tentative contract agreement with Jeep maker Stellantis.

The escalated walkout began Saturday evening at a Spring Hill, Tennessee plant, GM's largest in North America, just hours after the Stellantic deal was reached. Its nearly 4,000 workers join about 14,000 already striking at GM factories in Texas, Michigan and Missouri.

The UAW did not immediately explain what prompted the new action after 44 days of targeted strikes. The added pressure on GM is substantial as Spring Hill makes engines for vehicles assembled in a total of nine plants as far afield as Mexico, including Silverado and Sierra pickups. One plant already on strike it supplies with engines, in Arlington Texas, makes full-size SUVs including the Tahoe and Suburban. Vehicles assembled at Spring Hill include the electric Cadillac Lyriq, GMC Acadia and Cadillac crossover SUVs.

"The Spring Hill walkout affects so much of GM's production that the company is likely to settle quickly or close down most production," said Erik Gordon, a University of Michigan business professor. The union wants to wrap negotiations with all three automakers so "Ford and Stellantis workers don't vote down (their) tentative agreements because they want to see what GM workers get."

The Stellantis deal mirrors one reached last week with Ford, and saves jobs at several plants, the UAW said.

Presidents of the Ford union locals voted unanimously Sunday in Detroit to endorse that tentative contract after UAW President Shawn Fain explained its details, the union tweeted.

As he explained the particulars to the full membership in a later livestream, Fain, along with Chuck Browning, the UAW vice president, said the deal represents a "historical inflection point" for reviving union power in an America where "we were being left behind by an economy that only works for the billionaire class."

"UAW members at Ford will receive more in straight general wage increases over the next 4 1/2 years than we have over the last 22 years combined," Browning said.

Fain called the deal "a turning point in the class war that has been raging in this country for the past 40 years."

G-7 nations back strong supply chains for energy and food despite global tensions

TOKYO (AP)—Trade and economy officials from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies strengthened their pledge Sunday to work together to ensure smooth supply chains for essentials like energy and food despite global uncertainties.

The nations promised to maintain "a free and fair trading system based on the rule of law and enhancing economic resilience and economic security," officials said in a joint statement.

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, who co-hosted the two-day event in the western city of Osaka, pointed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war as the latest threats to stable energy and food supplies.

"We nations that share important values have a position of responsibility amid growing uncertainties," she said in closing the meeting, stressing democracy, inclusiveness and human rights.

Worries are growing among developed nations about maintaining a stable supply of computer chips as well as essential minerals, like lithium, which are critical these days amid the demand for electric vehicles and other green energy.

The G-7 includes the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Britain. The European Union, Australia, Chile, India, Indonesia and Kenya were invited to take part in the two-day meeting, as were economic organizations such as the World Trade Organization.

The G-7 nations reiterated their criticism of what they called in their joint statement "Russia's brutal, unprovoked, unjustifiable and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine."

The participants discussed how trade policy can contribute to tackling climate change, strengthening food security, promoting digital trade and working toward sustainable development.

Trade is one sector where growing political tensions with China have been playing out, although China was not directly mentioned in the meetings.

China, while absent at the meetings, loomed as a focal point. China has imposed export curbs on two metals used in computer chips and solar cells—gallium and germanium—that it said were intended to "safeguard national security."

At the G-7 summit in Hiroshima in southwestern Japan earlier this year, participants referred to "economic coercion" in an oblique reference to China's leveraging some nations' dependence for economic items. That phrase was again used at the Osaka G-7.

As the host nation, Japan focused on how China has banned imports of Japanese seafood after the recent massive release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant, which experienced reactor meltdowns in 2011.

Yasutoshi Nishimura, the Japanese minister in charge of trade and the economy, said G-7 nations expressed support and understanding for Japan's position, stressing the safety of Japanese food based on scientific evidence, including that from Fukushima. Japan will continue to press for the food bans to end, he told reporters.

Nishimura also said the guest nations that took part in the G-7 meeting, including Australia and India, were potentially powerful allies in strengthening the supply chain in valuable materials.

Bilateral agreements on the sidelines included one between Britain and Japan to work together on mineral-supply chains that both sides said were essential to achieve clean energy and effective national defense.

Japan also reached a deal with the EU on digital data exchanges, affirming a commitment to work together on standards to facilitate digital-sector trade, including online exchanges.

Kamikawa also met with U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and reaffirmed bilateral ties in support of "the free and fair economic order," and traded notes about the importance of women playing bigger roles on the G-7 stage.

Nation

ON DAY OF PRAYER, REFLECTION ON TRAGEDY

Over 1K pay tribute to Maine's mass shooting victims

LEWISTON, Maine (AP)—More than 1,000 people packed a cavernous church Sunday night, and hundreds more spilled outside, to hug, sing, weep and seek comfort in the wake of Maine's most deadly mass shooting.

The crowd gathered for the vigil at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, where days earlier a gunman fatally shot 18 people.

Some people put their heads in their hands and wept when the names were read aloud. At one point, members of the crowd raised their hands to say "I love you" in American Sign Language in honor of the four members of Maine's deaf community killed in the shooting.

"We will not be defined by the tragedies that happened," said the Rev. Todd Little from the First United Pentecostal Church. "Fear, anxiety and trepidation will not dictate our present or our future."

The vigil came two days after the body of suspected gunman Robert Card was found. The 40-year-old's body was discovered in a trailer at a recycling center in Lisbon Falls. Card died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound though it was unclear when, authorities said. Card was also suspected of injuring 13 people in the shooting rampage Wednesday night in Lewiston.

AP

People gather at a vigil for the victims of Wednesday's mass shootings, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, outside the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, Maine.

Christian leaders, a rabbi and an imam spoke of the pain from the shooting but how the city of about 37,000 can become stronger. Little told the crowd that their community is bigger than the tragedy and will emerge not just "Lewiston Strong" but "Lewiston Stronger.'

Kevin Bohlin, a leader in Maine's deaf community, addressed the crowd through American Sign Language as an interpreter delivered his message. Several in attendance could be seen signing to one another throughout the vigil.

The victims are now gone, Bohlin said, "but they are directing us to come together and make a difference in this world."

Another pastor encouraged Mainers to compassion borne of the tragedy, and to avoid unhealthy debate of the details surrounding the crime that are sure to emerge in coming days.

"Let's stay focused on the things that invite peace into our communities," the Rev. Allen Austin said. "Let's not let this moment be defined by divisiveness."

Earlier Sunday, several church services were shaped by the shooting and subsequent lockdown that lasted days. At the morning mass for the basilica, several women wore black veils to mark what a church official called "the horrible events in our small town."

At Lisbon Falls Baptist Church, worshipers greeted each other warmly but the atmosphere turned somber when the Rev. Brian Ganong brought up the tragedy. He prayed for those fighting for their lives, those who lost family and friends, first responders and medical workers, and others—including the Card family, who he said had ties to some members of the church.

Authorities recovered many guns while searching for Card and believe he had legally purchased them, including those recovered in his car and near his body, said Jim Ferguson, the special agent in charge of the Boston office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He declined to discuss any specifics.

Investigators are still searching for a motive for the massacre, but have increasingly focused on Card's mental health history. State Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Sauschuck may have been driven by paranoia.

Card's family told federal investigators that he had recently discussed hearing voices and became more focused on the bowling alley and bar, according to law enforcement officials who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in order to discuss details of the investigation.

On Friday, authorities lifted a stay-at-home order put in place during the search for Card, hours before they announced they had found his body. By Saturday, the community was reaching for normalcy. Residents went hunting on the opening day of firearm season for deer, and one family handed out buckets of flowers downtown.

Judge reimposes limited gag order in Trump 2020 election interference case

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal judge overseeing Donald Trump's 2020 election interference case in Washington on Sunday reimposed a narrow gag order barring him from making public comments targeting prosecutors, court staff and potential witnesses.

The reinstatement of the gag order was revealed in a brief notation on the online case docket Sunday night, but the order itself was not immediately available, making it impossible to see the judge's rationale or the precise contours of the restrictions.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who is presiding over the federal case charging Trump with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 election, had temporarily lifted the gag order as she considered the former president's request to keep it on hold while he challenges the restrictions on his speech in higher courts.

But Chutkan agreed to reinstate the order after prosecutors cited Trump's recent social media comments about his former chief of staff they said represented an attempt to influence and intimidate a likely witness in the case.

The order is a fresh reminder that Trump's penchant for incendiary and bitter rants about the four criminal cases that he's facing, though politically beneficial in rallying his supporters as he seeks to reclaim the White House, carry practical consequences in court. Two separate judges have now imposed orders mandating that he rein in his speech, with the jurist presiding over a civil fraud trial in New York issuing a monetary fine last week.

A request for comment was sent Sunday to a Trump attorney, Todd Blanche. Trump in a social media post late Sunday acknowledged that the gag order was back in place, calling it "NOT CONSITUTIONAL!"

Trump's lawyers have said they will seek an emergency stay of the order from the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The defense has said Trump is entitled to criticize prosecutors and "speak truth to oppression."

Trump has denied any wrongdoing in the case. He has made a central part of his 2024 campaign for president vilifying special counsel Jack Smith and others involved the criminal cases against him, casting himself as the victim of a politicized justice system.

Prosecutors have said Trump's verbal attacks threaten to undermine the integrity of the case and risk inspiring his supporters to violence.

Smith's team said Trump took advantage of the recent lifting of the gag order to "send an unmistakable and threatening message" to his former chief of staff, Mark Meadows, who was reported by ABC News to have received immunity to testify before a grand jury.

The former president mused on social media about the possibility that Meadows would give testimony to Smith in exchange for immunity. One part of the post said: "Some people would make that deal, but they are weaklings and cowards, and so bad for the future our Failing Nation. I don't think that Mark Meadows is one of them but who really knows?"

In a separate case, Trump was fined last week $10,000 after the judge in his civil fraud trial in New York said the former president had violated a gag order.

Boys graduate high school at lower rates than girls, with lifelong consequences

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—They attend the same classes with access to the same programs, and even come from the same families. But girls consistently are outperforming boys, graduating at higher rates at public high schools around the country.

The gap between them is wide, often as wide as the achievement gap between students from affluent and low-income families, a problem that officials have tracked closely for years. But the reasons why boys are falling short are not as clear.

Interviews with students, educators and researchers point to several factors. Men generally can earn the same wages as women with less education. But boys also are more likely to face suspensions or other discipline knocking them off track, and they don't pursue help as often when they face mental health challenges.

Some boys are fine when they first drop out, landing jobs providing steady incomes. But over the long term, lacking a high school degree can hold men back. Studies show young men who drop out of high school earn less over their lifetimes and are more likely to end up in jail.

Bryant West was halfway through high school in Pascagoula, Mississippi, when he dropped out in 2020. Instead of learning algebra and other things he couldn't imagine ever needing, he felt his time was better spent working at Popeye's and on landscaping crews to help his mother with bills.

"I feel like it was pointless," he said.

West, 18, planned instead to earn his GED, which he received three years later, in September. "It was just another way that I wanted to do it," he said.

In some cases, boys like West aren't in as much of a hurry to graduate as girls because they haven't needed a high school degree to cover rent and groceries, said Beth Jarosz, a program director at research organization PRB.

A man without a high school diploma often earns as much as a woman who has completed a year or two of college, Jarosz said.

The U.S. government doesn't require states to report graduation data by gender the way they must break it out by racial and ethnic groups and for children with disabilities, English language learners and homeless students. But in every state reporting high school graduation rates by gender, research shows female students graduate at higher rates.

Asia

ON ANNIVERSARY OF DEADLY HALLOWEEN CRUSH

South Korean families demand special probe

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Bereaved relatives of victims of last year's devastating Halloween crush in Seoul and their supporters demanded an independent investigation of the disaster as they marked the anniversary Sunday with a massive memorial service.

The crush, one of the biggest peacetime disasters in South Korea, killed 159 people, most of them in their 20s and 30s who had gathered in Itaewon, a popular nightlife district in Seoul, for Halloween celebrations.

Commemorating the anniversary, the families visited the Itaewon area, laid flowers and offered condolences at an alley where the crush happened. Some wept near a wall where hosts of post-it notes with condolence messages were plastered.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I couldn't protect you. I loved you," Song Jin Young, 55, the father of one of the victims, said.

In Itaewon, accompanied by their supporters, the families also attended multi-faith prayer services for their loved ones. They chanted slogans asking President Yoon Suk Yeol to offer a more sincere apology and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min to resign over the disaster.

"Apologize! Apologize!" they shouted.

The group marched through Seoul before arriving at a square for a memorial service, which drew thousands of people.

In a speech, Lee Jeong-min, a representative for the families, urged President Yoon to support efforts to legislate a special law to open an independent investigation into the disaster.

"We did our utmost to raise our children but we couldn't even touch them when they vanished all of sudden. Where can we talk about our resentment toward this reality?" Lee said. "The special law would the most important legislation to find the cause of the Itaewon disaster and discuss the prevention of recurrences of similar incidents."

In speeches, several opposition politicians criticized Yoon for failing to attend the ceremony and vowed to pass the special law to get to the bottom of the tragedy. Some participants reportedly shouted jeers at a ruling party official when he tried to leave after the first half of the ceremony, but there were no reports of major violence.

The memorial ended, with the crowd shouting "We'll remember you" when names of each of the 159 victims were called. They also placed flowers before the photos of the dead at an altar.

The victims' families saidw they had invited Yoon to the memorial ceremony. Instead, he attended a service for the victims at a Seoul church. Yoon's office didn't explicitly explain why he missed the memorial, but local media reported it was due to concerns that the event could be used politically by his rivals.

ASIAN BRIEFS

13 people killed, 25 injured when 2 trains collided in southern India

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—Two passenger trains collided in southern India on Sunday, killing 13 people and inuring 25, officials said. The crash happened in Andhra Pradesh state's Vizianagaram district when an incoming train slammed into a stationary train, leading to derailment of at least three rail cars, senior railway officer Saurab Prasad said. Prasad said a preliminary investigation found that human error caused the accident. Train crashes are common in India and are often blamed on human error or outdated signaling equipment. In June, more than 280 people were killed in one of the country's deadliest rail crashes in decades when two passenger trains rammed into each other in eastern India. More than 12 million people ride 14,000 trains across India every day, traveling on 64,000 kilometers (40,000 miles) of track.

Thousands rally in Pakistan against Israel's bombing in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Thousands of supporters from Pakistan's main religious political party rallied in the capital, Islamabad, on Sunday against Israel's bombing of Palestinians in Gaza, chanting anti-American slogans and accusing the U.S. of "backing the aggressor." The Jamaat-e-Islami party initially announced a march to the U.S. Embassy in the city's high-security diplomatic enclave. But tough action from authorities the previous night forced the party to change its plans and hold the rally in a major street away from the protected enclave. Police pulled down the party's encampments on Saturday night, detaining the local leadership and dozens of supporters. Because of the Jamaat-e-Islami plan and the risk of violence, the U.S. Embassy issued an advisory for American citizens living in Islamabad and the surrounding area to "limit unnecessary travel on Sunday." It advised them to avoid large public gatherings, to exercise caution if unexpectedly in the vicinity of a large gathering or demonstration and to review personal security plans.

In Myanmar, Facebook post deemed inflammatory led to an ex-minister's arrest

BANGKOK (AP)—A former high-profile Myanmar army officer who had served as information minister and presidential spokesperson in a previous military-backed government has been arrested and charged with spreading false or inflammatory news, a statement from the current military government said Sunday. In a statement sent to journalists, the military's information office said 64-year old Ye Htut, a retired lieutenant colonel, was arrested for violating Section 505(A) of the penal code, a provision called "incitement," for writing and spreading false news on his Facebook social media account. His arrest came the same month a Myanmar military tribunal sentenced two high-ranking generals to life imprisonment after they were found guilty of high treason, accepting bribes, illegal possession of foreign currency and violating military discipline. Those sentences appeared to be the harshest so far for the senior members of the military's administrative bodies that were set up after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi more than 2 1/2 years ago. The country has been in turmoil since then, with widespread armed resistance to military rule, which the army has been unable to quash despite its superiority in weapons and manpower.

World

Gaza receives largest aid shipment so far

AP

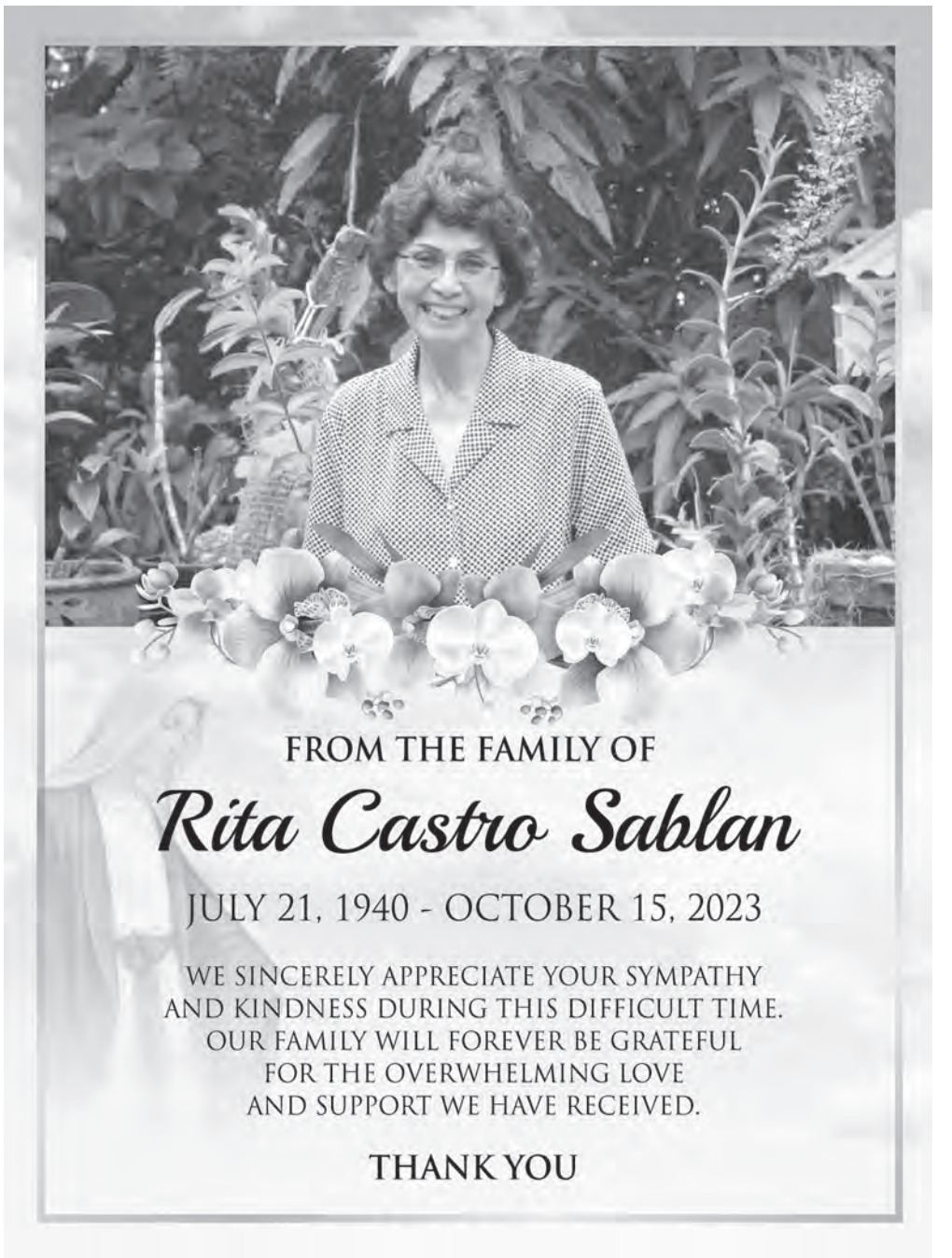
Smoke rises following Israeli bombardment on Gaza City, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Nearly three dozen trucks entered Gaza on Sunday in the largest aid convoy since the war between Israel and Hamas began, but humanitarian workers said the assistance still fell desperately short of needs after thousands of people broke into warehouses to take flour and basic hygiene products.

» As deaths top 8,000 and Israel widens military offensive

The Gaza Health Ministry said the death toll among Palestinians passed 8,000, mostly women and minors, as Israeli tanks and infantry pursued what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a "second stage" in the war ignited by Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 incursion. The toll is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence. Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during the initial attack, also an unprecedented figure.

Communications were restored to most of Gaza's 2.3 million people Sunday after an Israeli bombardment described by residents as the most intense of the war knocked out phone and internet services late Friday.


FROM THE FAMILY OF
Rita Castro Sablan
JULY 21, 1940 - OCTOBER 15, 2023
WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR SYMPATHY
AND KINDNESS DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.
OUR FAMILY WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL
FOR THE OVERWHELMING LOVE
AND SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED.
THANK YOU

Overdrive

2023 TOYOTA 4RUNNER
40th Anniversary Special Edition

TOYOTA
The 2023 Toyota 4Runner 40th Anniversary Special Edition has a heritage grille and tri-colored striping, which pays tribute to Toyota's early racing days.

By BARRY SPYKER
Tribune News Service

The phrase "Life Begins at 40" was popularized by a 1930s self-help book that encouraged folks to stay active because American life expectancy was on the rise—in other words, you're not as old as you think.

While many still struggle with the big 4-0, the legendary Toyota 4Runner seems to be handling it just fine: It still eagerly tackles rocky trails, muddy trenches and just about everything this earth can throw at it.

The original 4Runner formula has worked since its inception in 1985 so it remains a boxy nuts-and-bolts off-roader with a truck-based chassis and 9.6 inches of ground clearance. So there should be little surprise the 4Runner has no game-changing features for 2023, and 4Runner fanatics are good with that.

Toyota is celebrating the milestone, however, with a distinctive 4WD-only 40th Anniversary Special Edition. It is based on the well-equipped SR5 in Premium trim, and only 4,040 (get it?) are being built for the U.S.market so you'll have to comb through the internet for stragglers—they are out there!

The special edition stands out from the lineup with a heritage grille and tri-colored (yellow, orange and red) striping which pays tribute to Toyota's early racing days. It also gets bronze-tinted 17-inch 6-spoke alloy wheels and anniversary badging on the dash, headrests, floor mats and tail gate. And Toyota threw in a standard power moon roof.

The special edition comes in three colors: Midnight Black Metallic, Barcelona Red and White-White, complemented by matching accent stitching inside.

TOYOTA
The 2023 Toyota 4Runner 40th Anniversary Special Edition has a five-seat cabin with a broad black dashboard.

Other than that, the aging fifth-generation 4Runner trucks along with its 4.0-liter V-6 engine that rounds up 270 horsepower and 278 pound-feet of torque. Power is distributed by an automatic transmission with only five gears, half as many as Ford's Bronco, but does include manual-shift mode.

On the road, 4Runner keeps up (barely) with most in the midsize-SUV class, getting to 60 mph in around 8 seconds and the quarter-mile in 16 ticks. It's adequate for on-ramps and passing lanes. It also is comfortable on the road, handling bumps and dips with its four-link rear axle and coil spring suspension. Road grip is secure but handling is heavy and truck-like.

Fuel economy is dismal with a 17 mpg average, 16 city and 19 highway. On the plus side, a large 23-gallon fuel tank will help lessen trips to the gas pump.

Little of this matters to 4Runner fans, of course, who love the go-anywhere character and off-road assistance. On more hardcore versions, Crawl Control modulates throttle and brakes on five-low-speed settings so the driver can focus on the terrain. A multi-terrain select system optimizes traction: Four modes, chosen with an overhead dial, modify wheel spin by adjusting speed and traction control.

Hill Start Assist holds the vehicle stationary while switching from brake to accelerator, while Downhill Assist Control maintains a constant slow speed while preventing wheel lock-up during the descent. Meanwhile, two cameras in 4Runner's multi-terrain monitor system expand the driver's visibility of trails, rocks or other obstacles.

For those planning to pull a small boat or trailer, the 4Runner can tow up to 5,000 pounds and carry a payload of 1,625 lbs.

The five-seat cabin remains old-school with a broad black dashboard and three big plastic knobs for climate (single zone only) and another for the 4WD system.

Seats are heated and made of synthetic leather, overly soft, and have 8-way power for the driver, 4-way for the front passenger. They are separated by a deep center-console bin. Rear seats easily accommodate three adults with ease.

Tech screens are comically small by today's SUV standards: An 8-inch touchscreen and an even smaller driver-data screen behind the chunky four-spoke steering wheel. But the infotainment system is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto so you're set there.

The cargo area is cavernous, best in the segment even, with 47.2 cubic feet behind the rear seat and nearly 90 cubes with the rear seat folded down. A 120V power outlet can power up gear when you get to campsites and trails. And, like all generations of the 4Runner, it has the signature power rear window.

All come with driver-assist features including a pre-collision system with pedestrian detection, lane-departure alert, and high-speed radar cruise control. Blind-spot monitor and rear cross-traffic alert were added this year.

For a no-frills truck that began as a pickup with a fiberglass roof, the 4Runner has come a long way in four decades and has four million sales to show for it.

It's not for everyone and doesn't pretend to be. But rough-roaders know it is still one of the best off-road SUV's on the market, and it's among the best in holding its value to boot.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **MSRP**:$45,750
- **As tested**:$47,085 (40th Anniversary trim with multiple badges, heritage grille, tri-colored striping, bronze-tinted 6-spoke alloy wheels, power moon roof)
- **What's all the excitement about? Go-anywhere 4Runner celebrates 40 years and 4 million sales with anniversary edition**
- **Powertrain:** 4.0-liter V-6 engine produces 270 hp and 278 pound-feet of torque; mated to 5-speed automatic with manual shift mode
- **How's the performance? Coarse engine but competent ride with good road grip; 0-60 mph in 8 seconds; Same capable, sure-footed off-roader as ever**
- **Fuel economy:** EPA-estimated 17 mpg combined: 16 mpg city, 19 highway

Revved up about keyless ignition

MOTORMOUTH
BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: Whenever I rent a vehicle while traveling, I end up with a new keyless start equipped vehicle. I find this feature extremely annoying. I am constantly afraid of locking myself out, as I am not sure I have the fob in my pocket, especially with a rental as I have only one fob. I cannot figure out any situation where this provides any advantage over knowing where the key is while driving.

T.T., Fort Myers, Florida

A: Push-button start is nearly universal nowadays. It provides excellent theft protection. Whenever I rent a car, I keep the keys in my grasp until shutting the door. Luckily, leaving the keys in the car usually prevents locking the door and often sounds a warning. I left my spare key in a jacket when I tossed it into the trunk recently and the trunk kept popping open!

■■■

Q: In your recent column you mentioned that you could start your engine, even if your fob battery was dead. You didn't say how you could do it. My current vehicle is my first with the push-button start. This old man would just like the key.

B.G., Colorado Springs, Colorado

A: Although there are variations, most engines can be started using the key fob itself. Just hold the key fob to the start/stop button and press as you would if using your finger. This should do the trick until you can replace the button battery in your fob.

■■■

Q: With publicly available charging facilities, how do drivers handle the issue of someone connecting their EV to charge, but they don't disconnect right away and other people are waiting?

A: Courtesy and good manners seem to be in short supply. At a supermarket, they will eventually need to go home. If it is a community park-and-ride, they will retrieve the car after work. If they are paying for the service, maybe they're just being forgetful or rude. If the car is in your driveway….

■■■

Q: I have 69,000 miles on my GMC Terrain. We basically use it for short trips and hauling household items. My rearview camera has gone black. The warning still comes on. I drove for 50 years without a backup camera so I can survive without it, but if it was an inexpensive fix like a new fuse, I would get it fixed.

R.S., Crete, Illinois

A: The issue could be a blown fuse. It could be a loose connection. Or it could be a major malfunction. As long as you have the proximity warning alert, you are good to go. Be old-school and use your mirrors.

■■■

Q: I try to keep my wife's 2019 Honda CR-V interior neat and clean, but I consistently fail to find a way to keep the windshield free from a filmy residue. I've used a number of different window cleaner solutions as well as cloth types to dry the glass, but invariably within a day or two, the glass is less clear, especially at night when any exterior light source magnifies the problem. Any suggestions?

R.V., Wheaton, Illinois

A: I like DashMats, those carpet-like custom dashboard covers. Not only does it cut down on reflected glare, it suppresses some outgassing from the vinyl. My windshield still gets filmy inside, just not as often. I have used numerous window cleaners including homemade stuff and have finally switched to automotive glass cleaners and microfiber cloths: one cloth to clean and another to polish the glass.

Life & Style

'THE ONE WHERE OUR HEARTS ARE BROKEN'

‘Friends’ creators, actors, family mourn Matthew Perry

Matthew Perry was widely mourned this weekend by friends, co-stars and some very famous fans, including his childhood classmate, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; his “Friends” mom Morgan Fairchild; and even Adele.

Perry, who played Chandler Bing on NBC’s “Friends” for 10 seasons, was found dead at his Los Angeles home on Saturday. He was 54.

“This truly is The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken,” “Friends” co-creators Marta Kauffman and David Crane, along with executive producer Kevin Bright, said in a joint statement Sunday.

“We are shocked and deeply, deeply saddened by our beloved friend Matthew’s passing,” Kauffman, Crane and Bright wrote. “We will always cherish the joy, the light, the blinding intelligence he brought to every moment—not just to his work, but in life as well. He was always the funniest person in the room. More than that, he was the sweetest, with a giving and selfless heart.”

AP

A person takes pictures of a makeshift memorial for Matthew Perry outside the building known as the "Friends" building in New York, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023.

Perry’s family also gave a statement to People Magazine, writing that they are heartbroken by the loss.

“Matthew brought so much joy to the world, both as an actor and a friend,” the family said. “You all meant so much to him and we appreciate the tremendous outpouring of love.”

Others, some who knew him, some who didn’t, took to social media to express their grief.

Trudeau, who attended elementary school with Perry while their parents worked together, wrote a tribute on X, formerly Twitter.

“I’ll never forget the schoolyard games we used to play, and I know people around the world are never going to forget the joy he brought them,” Trudeau wrote. “Thanks for all the laughs, Matthew. You were loved—and you will be missed.”

Perry’s mother served as press secretary to Trudeau’s father, Pierre Trudeau, during his time as prime minister.

Adele took a moment to talk about him during her show in Las Vegas on Saturday night. She recalled how his work made her laugh and said that even though she’d never met him, there is a strange thing that happens sometimes when an entertainer dies that makes you feel personally sad.

“I just want to say how much I love what he did for us,” she said to the cheering crowd.

Saturday Night Live also showed a tribute card for Perry during the weekend’s episode. Perry once hosted the show, in 1997, which featured one sketch where he played Matt LeBlanc’s character Joey and Colin Quinn played Chandler.

Fairchild, who played Chandler’s mother on “Friends” wrote on X, that she was “heartbroken about the untimely death of my ‘son’.”

“The loss of such a brilliant young actor is a shock. I’m sending love & condolences to his friends & family, especially his dad,” Fairchild wrote.

She had also worked with Perry’s father, actor John Bennett Perry, on several television series.

Another frequent “Friends” co-star, Maggie Wheeler, who played his girlfriend Janice, wrote, “The joy you brought to so many in your too short lifetime will live on. I feel very blessed by every creative moment we shared.”

Selma Blair, who also appeared on an episode of “Friends,” posted on Instagram that she was “broken hearted.”

“My oldest boy friend,” Blair wrote. “All of us loved Matthew Perry, and I did especially. Every day. I loved him unconditionally. And he me. And I’m broken. Broken hearted. Sweet dreams Matty. Sweet dreams.”

Many Hollywood actors crossed paths with Perry, who had worked steadily on screen since he was a child.

Wendell Pierce, who worked with Perry on “The Odd Couple,” wrote on X that for two years, “Matthew Perry was my boss, my colleague, and a giving, kind, funny man. I pray and hope he is at peace.” ***(AP)***

Tokyo’s Shibuya district raises alarm against unruly Halloween

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo’s busy shopping, business and entertainment district of Shibuya is trying hard to keep visitors at bay during this year’s Halloween weekend.

Banners across town say no drinking and no Halloween events on the street, and town officials are cordoning off the famed statue of Hachi—an unceasingly loyal dog—behind protective walls.

“Shibuya streets are not party venues for Halloween,” Mayor Ken Hasebe said in an interview Friday with the Associated Press. “Anyone who is thinking about visiting Shibuya for Halloween, please be aware that the situation has changed this year ... security will be tighter and it won’t be enjoyable.”

Hasebe, a native of Shibuya, says his 91-year-old town—founded by people from around Japan—prides itself as an inclusive, innovative and diverse place open to visitors, but there should be a fine balance between freedom to enjoy the public space and the residents’ right to live peacefully.

“We just want to stress, as a rule of our town and morale of this country, that street drinking can cause trouble and should be avoided,” Hasebe said. “It’s time to reconsider partying on public streets for Halloween.”

Fear has run high that a large number of partygoers and tourists across Japan and the world following the COVID-19 pandemic could cause a disaster similar to last year’s fatal crowd crush in South Korea’s capital, Seoul.

The intersection by Shibuya’s train station, which is known as “scramble crossing” due to the large number of pedestrians typically attempting to cross, has become a popular destination for residents and tourists on Halloween, drawing tens of thousands of costumed young people every year.

Halloween in Shibuya started out as a peaceful, happy event in the 2010s when revelers gathered in costumes and took photos. The city provided toilets and changing booths for the visitors, and a team of volunteers cleaned up everything on the morning of Nov. 1.

Family’s ‘black sheep’ is on its own again

DEAR ABBY: I have been having a hard time dealing with my family. We have never been close. My mother played favorites and never showed me any affection. My siblings followed suit, and I always felt like an outsider. My father was wonderful and loved me very much, for which I am forever grateful.

Both my parents died last year. I was walking on eggshells the entire time. My brothers and sisters seemed to think that I was now a member of the family. They included me in events and told me they loved me. I was so hopeful.

After my mother’s death, I was cut out of the family again. I’m no longer invited to family celebrations or holidays. I am heartbroken and lonely. I have no one left. Family is so important to me. I am embarrassed to admit I am now estranged from everyone. Can you help?

BLACK SHEEP IN KENTUCKY

DEAR BLACK SHEEP: Unfortunately, your experience is not unique. I hear it more and more, in one variation or another. It is now time for you to build a family of your own, comprised of friendships with people you can trust. Many people do this, and when they do, find themselves happier and more rewarded than they felt with their relatives.

As you do this, do not look back. Begin not by asking for friendship, but by being honest and befriending others. Look around, and you will see them everywhere. There’s no shame in reaching out, so please do not feel embarrassed about being a member of a very large “club.”

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m a Realtor and managing broker helping my fiance’s son, “Mark,” buy a new home. We’re set to close next month. Tonight, my fiance, “Simon,” told me I am not to keep any of my commission—that Mark expects me to give it all to him. Granted, I was planning to give Mark a token of appreciation—a few hundred dollars, perhaps—but not my entire commission!

I told Simon he must have misunderstood, that this is my JOB, my work. No one gives someone their entire paycheck, do they? I don’t think there’s any way Mark would expect 100% of my commission, but Simon says if I don’t agree, there will be “consequences.”

Our relationship is already strained, and I feel this is not only over the top but also completely disrespectful. I’m trying not to rock the boat with the holidays coming up. Please help me.

ON THE SPOT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ON THE SPOT: Sometimes it’s better to confront a problem than to ignore it for fear of what you might find out. This is one of those times. Tell your fiance to explain EXACTLY what he meant by “consequences” if you don’t agree to his son’s unreasonable demand. Listen carefully to what he has to say.

If you give in to emotional blackmail this time, it’s only a taste of what you will receive from him and his son in the future. If there is a wedding planned anytime soon, I urge you to slam on the brakes until this matter is ironed out to your satisfaction.

■ ■ ■

A GENTLE REMINDER TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN: Tonight, wee witches and goblins will be out trick-or-treating. Please supervise them closely so they’ll be safe. Happy Halloween, everyone!

Love, ABBY

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

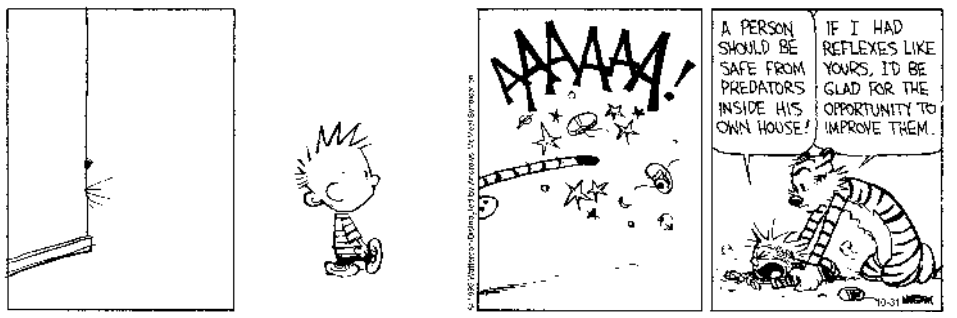
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

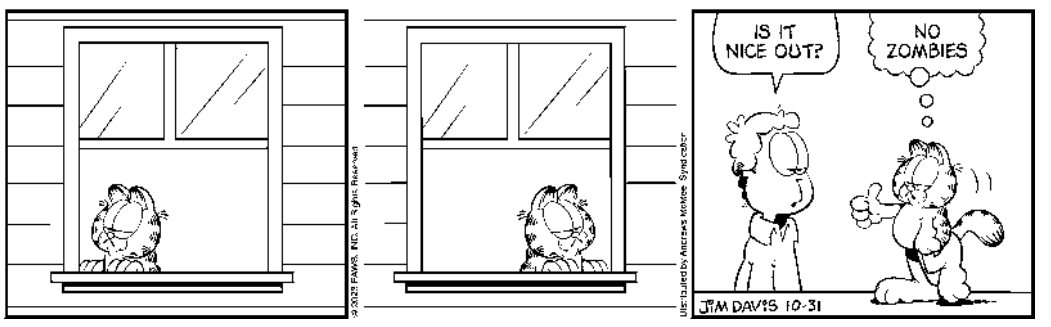
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AAAAA!
A PERSON SHOULD BE SAFE FROM PREDATORS INSIDE HIS OWN HOUSE!
IF I HAD REFLEXES LIKE YOURS, I'D BE GLAD FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THEM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

IT IS THE DAY.
YES. WE KNOW.
THE DAY FOR GHOULS TO FROLIC.
THE DAY FOR MONSTERS TO WALK THE...
GET ME WHEN IT'S CANDY TIME!
THE FAKE BLOOD WILL FLOW LIKE THE RIVERS OF THE...

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

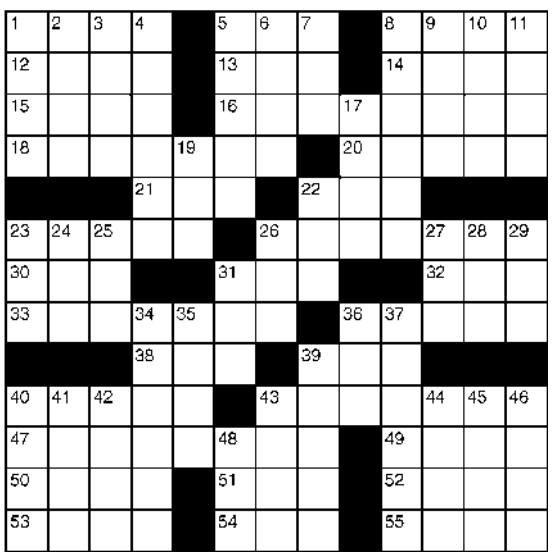
ACROSS
1 During
5 Bee follower
8 Kind of roast
12 LP player
13 Tolkien monster
14 Jacob's brother
15 Admin. aide
16 Ardent fans
18 Lushes
20 Smarts
21 Perón of Argentina
22 In favor of
23 Wake up
26 Hinterlands
30 Coffee vessel
31 Tourist's chart
32 Bill's partner
33 Gen Xers' parents
36 Whirls
38 Foreman foe
39 "Norma —"
40 Sheepish?
43 Jeans variety
47 1960s dance
49 Vogue rival
50 Diminutive suffix
51 Pitcher's pride
52 McNally partner
53 Calendar quota
54 Thumbsup
55 Relaxing refuges

DOWN
1 Melville mariner
2 Japanese soup
3 In that case
4 Airheads
5 Hooded snake
6 Love god
7 Green prefix
8 Come back
9 Addict
10 Emporium
11 "— in Boots"
17 "Scram!"
19 Prior night
22 Dandy guy
23 Barbecue seasoning
24 Acapulco gold
25 Popular card game
26 Some coll. degrees
27 Here, to Henri
28 A billion years
29 "Mayday!"
31 Hosp. scan
34 Crèche part
35 Philosopher Zeno's home
36 — Paulo
37 Broadway's Bernadette
39 Hotel units
40 Follow orders
41 Cast a ballot
42 Teeny bit
43 Drill
44 Applaud
45 Forearm bone
46 Turner and Danson
48 Nonclerical

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	H	E	D	■	S	T	Y	■	S	M	E	W
T	O	R	E	■	O	R	E	■	M	O	L	E
E	P	I	C	■	N	E	W	H	I	R	E	S
M	I	K	A	D	O	■	S	E	L	E	C	T
■	■	■	M	A	G	S	■	N	E	O	■	■
V	A	M	P	I	R	E	S	■	S	V	E	N
I	S	A	■	S	A	G	A	S	■	E	N	O
P	U	L	P	■	M	U	D	T	I	R	E	S
■	■	A	R	I	■	C	T	C	N	■	■	■
P	A	Y	O	F	F	■	O	W	N	C	R	S
R	F	S	P	I	R	F	S	■	I	V	A	N
F	R	I	F	■	A	A	A	■	N	F	M	O
S	O	A	R	■	T	R	Y	■	G	R	A	B

Yesterday's answer 10-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Letitia Wright, 30; Patti Harrison, 33; Mike O'Malley, 57; Brian Doyle-Murray, 78.

Happy Birthday: Choose what makes you passionate and head in that direction. Seize the moment and you'll find extraordinary ways to turn your thoughts into a reality. Your determination will shine through as you conquer your dreams, hopes and wishes through the changes you make and the new beginnings you embrace. Stand tall, speak your mind and follow the path that makes you feel alive. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 27, 33, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Monitor and maintain joint ventures and investments. Getting along with your peers will be critical to get ahead. Sharing your personal or political thoughts will leave you in a precarious position. Silence is golden; let your actions speak for you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't waste time on things you can't change. Focus on trends and how to use your attributes, funds and peers to reach your goal. A physical show of confidence and presentation will encourage others to join your team. Don't lose sight of your dreams. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't be fooled by someone's bravado. A closer look will portray what's coming down the pipeline. Take notes, verify information and look for opportunities that don't include questionable people. Your reputation will be poor if you leave your fate in someone else's hands. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use connections to help you do things in record time. Your performance will prompt others to mimic you. Have patience with someone close to you. An obstruction will cover up what's happening around you. Tune in to body language, and don't act in haste. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Observation can spare you grief. Watch what others do and say, and you'll make better decisions. You can resolve problems at home with mutual change. Don't let love cost you if you find it difficult to say no. Know when to walk away. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pretense and emotional meddling require silence and contemplation without revealing your intentions. Go about your business, get things done on time and treat yourself to something you enjoy. Don't cater to others; set priorities with yourself in mind. Honesty leads to change. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Learn all you can, ask questions, test theories and do your best to get along with everyone. Patience will pay off when dealing with negotiations and considering changes that can influence your financial, medical or contractual status quo. Don't display your feelings. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change can prompt opportunity if it concerns a cause or a partnership. Look at the possibilities and put a strategy in place. Preparation is vital, and being secretive until you are ready is necessary. Protect your assets and make common sense a priority. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention to what's happening around you. A situation based on pretense will take advantage of you and your kindness and hospitality. Please don't ignore the truth or let someone tell a lie to benefit themselves. Speak up and share valid information. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Choose a lifestyle that frees up enough time to enjoy the people and pastimes that make you happy. It's up to you to redirect negative energy and take advantage of opportunities. Don't fold under pressure or let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Distance yourself from people heading in the opposite direction. Talk is cheap; someone you least expect will make allegations that can hurt your reputation if given the chance. Focus on home, family and what makes you happy, and you'll gain stability and trust. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't give in to someone using emotional blackmail. Take the initiative to dance like no one is watching, and invest more time and money in the people and pastimes that make you happy. Personal growth, money management and a change of heart are looming. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, calculating and quick-witted. You are ambitious and protective.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3	1	6		2
	2	7		4		3		
3	1	5		9	6		4	8
		1				9		4
		4	9	5				
	6	9	3	1		5		
8							2	9
	7	2					6	
1	5	6		2	9	8		

Difficulty: ★★ 10/31

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	9
4	1	3	9	5	8	6	2	7
9	5	2	6	4	7	3	1	8
2	7	9	8	1	6	5	3	4
1	4	5	2	3	9	7	8	6
3	8	6	4	7	5	2	9	1
7	9	8	3	6	2	1	4	5
6	3	4	5	8	1	9	7	2
5	2	1	7	9	4	8	6	3

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 10/29

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HALLOWEEN PARTIES Solution: 11 letters

H	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	I	G	H	T
S	O	E	M	U	S	I	C	M	Y	M	M	U	M	O
I	G	R	T	E	N	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	S	E
L	G	I	A	N	Ⓑ	Ⓐ	Ⓣ	Ⓢ	N	K	J	D	R	C
U	D	H	W	N	U	O	S	Y	A	A	W	R	E	N
O	S	N	O	I	G	A	R	C	C	E	O	A	D	A
H	P	E	A	S	T	E	H	K	O	I	L	Z	I	D
G	E	E	K	B	T	C	O	S	S	R	V	I	P	R
C	L	U	T	E	R	L	H	S	T	E	E	W	S	E
O	L	Q	M	E	A	Z	E	S	U	E	S	R	M	S
L	S	E	E	N	O	Y	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	S
O	C	P	T	M	R	O	L	O	E	A	A	I	A	U
R	Y	E	B	A	O	W	H	S	S	H	S	R	D	P
T	R	I	C	K	O	R	T	R	E	A	T	K	T	S
N	E	S	Y	H	O	C	U	S	P	O	C	U	S	Y

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 10/31

Bard, Bats, Cake, Candles, Candy, Cats, Cemetery, Color, Costumes, Creepy, Dance, Decoration, Dress Up, Eerie, Ghost, Ghoulish, Haunted, Hocus Pocus, Home, Howl, Jack-O'-Lantern, Kids, Mask, Mummy, Music, Night, Orange, Party, Pumpkins, Queen, Robe, Scary, Skull, Spells, Spiders, Spooky, Sweets, Trick or Treat, Wigs, Witch, Wizard, Wolves, Zombie

Yesterday's Answer: Lines

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 75, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Vikings beat Packers but lose Cousins to possible Achilles tendon injury

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Kirk Cousins threw a pair of touchdown passes before leaving with what the Vikings fear is an Achilles tendon injury, and Minnesota beat the slumping Green Bay Packers 24-10 on Sunday.

Cousins walked gingerly to the sideline after getting sacked on consecutive plays during a series that ended with Green Bay's Karl Brooks blocking Greg Joseph's 44-yard field-goal attempt. Jaren Hall, a rookie fifth-round pick from BYU, took over for the rest of the game.

This was the first Packers-Vikings matchup since 2006 in which both teams entered the game with losing records, but Minnesota (4-4) got back to .500 with its third straight victory.

Cousins, who went 23 of 31 for 274 yards, has never missed a game because of injury in his 12-year career.

Minnesota's T.J. Hockenson and Jordan Addison had touchdown receptions less than two minutes apart early in the third quarter. Cam Akers gave the Vikings their first TD run of the season in the first quarter.

The Packers (2-5) started slowly again and lost their fourth straight. Green Bay has been outscored 73-9 in the first half of its past five games and trailed 24-3 in this one before Jordan Love connected with Romeo Doubs for a 1-yard touchdown on fourth down late in the third quarter. Jordan Love went 24 of 41 for 229 yards and threw one interception.

AP

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins (8) is helped off the field after going down with an injury in the fourth quarter of an NFL game against the Green Bay Packers, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, in Green Bay, Wis

BRONCOS 24, CHIEFS 9

DENVER (AP)—Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes, Justin Simmons had two of Denver's five takeaways, and the Broncos stymied an ill Patrick Mahomes in snapping their 16-game losing streak to Kansas City.

The Broncos (3-5) handed Mahomes his first AFC West road loss, beating Kansas City's quarterback for the first time in 13 tries.

Denver made a 14-9 halftime lead hold up by controlling the clock and keeping Mahomes and Travis Kelce cooling their cleats on the sideline in the second half. Kansas City (6-2) had just three second-half possessions before getting the ball back for one meaningless snap at the end.

BENGALS 31, 49ERS 17

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Joe Burrow threw three touchdown passes, Cincinnati intercepted Brock Purdy on back-to-back passes in the second half, and the Bengals beat San Francisco for their fourth win in five games.

After being hampered early in the season by a calf injury, Burrow came out of the bye week looking like his old self for the Bengals (4-3).

He managed to escape a sack attempt on a TD drive in the first quarter, had two long runs and was sharp all game throwing the ball against the 49ers (5-3), who lost their third straight game.

Burrow went 28 for 32 for 283 yards and ran for 43 more against a Niners defense that has uncharacteristically struggled in recent weeks.

Burrw helped Cincinnati take control of the game early in the fourth quarter after Logan Wilson intercepted a pass from Purdy. The Bengals struck on the next play when Burrow lofted a 17-yard TD pass to Ja'Marr Chase to make it 24-10.

COWBOYS 43, RAMS 20

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Dak Prescott threw two of his four touchdown passes to CeeDee Lamb, DaRon Bland recorded his NFL-leading third interception return for a score, and Dallas beat Los Angeles.

Lamb had career highs with 12 catches for 158 yards, including another personal best with 122 yards before halftime.

Sam Williams blocked a punt for a safety before KaVontae Turpin returned the ensuing punt 63 yards to set up Lamb's first TD grab, helping the Cowboys (5-2) to a 33-3 lead late in the first half.

Prescott finished the first half 17 of 21 for 225 yards. He ended up with his first 300-yard game of the season (25 of 31 for 304 yards with an interception).

EAGLES 38, COMMANDERS 31

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Jalen Hurts threw for four touchdowns while gutting through a knee injury, A.J. Brown had 130 yards receiving, and Philadelphia beat Washington to move to 7-1.

Hurts was limping and reluctant to run because of his gimpy left knee, but that didn't stop him from completing 29 of 38 passes for 319 yards and the TD passes to Brown twice, DeVonta Smith and Julio Jones. Before kneeling twice to end the game, he had 7 yards rushing on two attempts—his fewest since Dec. 26, 2021.

One of those rushes was a "tush push" attempt when Hurts fumbled at the Washington 1-yard line, one of two Philadelphia turnovers inside the 5. Kenneth Gainwell lost a fumble at the 4 in the first half.

Brown became the first player in NFL history with 125-plus yards receiving in six consecutive games.

DOLPHINS 31, PATRIOTS 17

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Tua Tagovailoa threw for 324 yards and three touchdowns, Jalen Ramsey intercepted a pass in his Dolphins debut, and Miami beat New England.

Miami won for the 16th time in its past 18 home games, and Tagovailoa moved to 6-0 in his career against Patriots coach Bill Belichick. The Dolphins, 6-2 for the first time since 2001, have a one-game lead over Buffalo in the AFC East.

Tagovailoa completed 30 of 45 passes and moved his league-leading yardage total to 2,416. Jaylen Waddle had seven catches for 121 yards and a touchdown, and Tyreek Hill had eight receptions for 112 yards and a score, becoming the first player in the Super Bowl era to top 1,000 receiving yards through eight games (he has 1,014).

JETS 13, GIANTS 10, OT

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Greg Zuerlein kicked a 35-yard field goal on the final play of regulation and converted a 33-yarder with 6:09 left in overtime, and the Jets rallied to beat their New York rivals.

The Jets (4-3) moved 46 yards in six plays with the game-winning kick set up by a pass interference penalty against Adoree Jackson that gave them a first down at the 15. Zuerlein came out immediately and put his kick just inside the left upright for the Jets' third straight win.

The Giants (2-6) gave up the tying field goal by allowing the Jets to move 58 yards in four plays without a timeout in the final 24 seconds. Zach Wilson hit Garrett Wilson and Allen Lazard on consecutive 29-yard passes, allowing the Jets to spike the ball with 1 second to play.

SEAHAWKS 24, BROWNS 20

SEATTLE (AP)—Geno Smith threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Jaxon Smith-Njigba with 38 seconds left, and Seattle rallied past Cleveland after blowing an early 14-point lead.

After struggling for long stretches against the best defense in the NFL, Smith was sensational on Seattle's final drive. He connected on 4 of 5 passes, the last of which was a quick screen to Smith-Njigba, who got a block from DK Metcalf to spring him for the touchdown.

Seattle (5-2) gave itself a chance when Julian Love intercepted Cleveland quarterback P.J. Walker on a deflected pass near midfield with 1:57 remaining.

Smith finished 23 of 37 for 254 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. Smith's first pick came at the end of the first half with Seattle in position to get points, and he also took a sack from Myles Garrett midway through the fourth quarter that knocked Seattle out of field goal range while trailing 20-17.

CHARGERS 30, BEARS 13

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Justin Herbert passed for 298 yards and three touchdowns, including a 39-yarder to Austin Ekeler, and Los Angeles beat Chicago to stop a two-game slide.

Herbert, who had struggled with accuracy after breaking the middle finger of his left, non-throwing hand four weeks ago, completed his first 14 passes and was 31 of 40.

Herbert directed the Chargers to points on their first five drives, the first time in six seasons they have accomplished that feat.

It was the first time in two years that Herbert passed for three TDs in the first half. He found Ekeler, Simi Fehoko and Donald Parham to help stake the Chargers to a 24-7 lead at the break.

TITANS 28, FALCONS 23

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Rookie Will Levis threw for 238 yards and four touchdowns in his NFL debut, and Tennessee scored its most points since 2021 in beating Atlanta.

Levis became the seventh rookie quarterback to start this season, the most rookies to start in the first eight weeks since the NFL merger, excluding the 1987 strike season. Levis joined Marcus Mariota (2015) as the only quarterbacks to throw at least four TD passes in their NFL debuts—both for the Titans—since the merger in 1970.

Two-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons had two of Tennessee's six sacks, including a strip-sack of Desmond Ridder that the Titans (3-4) turned into a touchdown. Harold Landry had two sacks as well.

JAGUARS 20, STEELERS 10

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Trevor Lawrence threw for 292 yards with a touchdown and an interception, and Jacksonville beat Pittsburgh for its fifth straight victory.

The Jaguars (6-2) strengthened their hold on the AFC South behind a defense that kept Pittsburgh's erratic offense in check and more than enough offense to overcome mistakes that let the Steelers (4-3) hang around well into the second half.

Lawrence broke it open with a 56-yard strike to a streaking Travis Etienne with 5:14 left in the third quarter that helped Jacksonville build a 14-point lead. The Jaguars won at Acrisure Stadium for the sixth time in their last seven trips.

PANTHERS 15, TEXANS 13

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Bryce Young outdueled C.J. Stroud in a battle of the NFL's top two draft picks, and Eddy Pineiro made a 23-yard field goal as time expired to give Carolina its first win of the season.

Young, the No. 1 overall pick, threw for 235 yards and a touchdown. He led a winning 15-play, 86-yard drive that took more than six minutes and helped the Panthers (1-6) snap a 56-game losing streak in games they trailed at any point during the fourth quarter, the longest in NFL since at least 1991.

Carolina's last fourth-quarter comeback win was Oct. 21, 2018, against Philadelphia.

RAVENS 31, CARDINALS 24

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Gus Edwards ran for two of his three touchdowns following interceptions by Baltimore's stout defense, and the Ravens beat Arizona.

A week after blowing out Detroit 38-6, the AFC North-leading Ravens (6-2) labored offensively.

The Cardinals (1-7) prevented Lamar Jackson from scrambling for more than a few yards at a time and the Ravens finished with 268 total yards. Jackson threw for 157 yards on 18-of-27 passing and ran for 18 yards on four carries.

SAINTS 38, COLTS 27

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Derek Carr threw for 310 yards and two touchdowns in a bounce-back performance, Taysom Hill and Alvin Kamara scored two TDs apiece, and New Orleans beat Indianapolis.

The Saints (4-4) snapped a two-game skid with their fifth consecutive win in the series—a streak that began with their lone Super Bowl victory after the 2009 season—and moved into a share of the NFC South lead with Atlanta.

Carr, who spent this week answering questions about scolding teammates on the sideline and shouting at offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael, had a strong performance against Indy's young, battered secondary. He went 19 of 27 without an interception.

Kings spoil 20th anniversary of James' NBA debut with win over Lakers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Malik Monk scored 11 of his 22 points in overtime and fed Kevin Huerter for a key 3-pointer with 32 seconds left, and the Sacramento Kings spoiled the 20th anniversary of LeBron James' NBA debut in the same city with a 132-127 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday night.

De'Aaron Fox had 37 points and eight assists for the Kings, scoring eight points in the final six minutes of regulation after returning from an ankle injury earlier in the fourth quarter. Domantas Sabonis added 12 points and 15 rebounds.

James, the No. 1 overall pick in 2003 by the Cleveland Cavaliers, finished with 27 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists. Derek Richardson, who was one of the three referees for James' debut game on Oct. 29, 2003, was part of the three-ref crew on Sunday night as well.

Anthony Davis added 30 points and 16 rebounds for the Lakers, who trailed by 15 before closing the fourth quarter on a 9-2 run to force overtime.

AP

Sacramento Kings center JaVale McGee (00) dunks against Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, in Sacramento, Calif.

NUGGETS 128, THUNDER 95

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Nikola Jokic had 28 points and 14 rebounds to help Denver roll past Oklahoma City for its third straight win to open the season.

Michael Porter Jr. had 20 points and nine rebounds and Jamal Murray added 19 points and eight assists for the Nuggets.

Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren was the No. 2 pick in the 2022 draft, but he missed last season with a foot injury. He got a loud cheer when he was introduced with the starters in his first regular-season home game and delivered a team-leading 19 points.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, a first-team All-NBA selection last season, scored just seven points on 2-for-16 shooting.

WARRIORS 106, ROCKETS 95

HOUSTON (AP)—Stephen Curry had 24 points, with four 3-pointers down the stretch, and Klay Thompson added 19 points to lead Golden State over Houston.

The Warriors led by as many as 16 before the Rockets began chipping away at the lead.

Draymond Green made his season-debut after missing the first two games with a sprained left ankle. His return to the starting lineup relegated Chris Paul to a reserve role, marking the first time the 12-time All-Star had come off the bench in his NBA career.

Jalen Green had 21 points and Alperen Sengun added 19 for the Rockets, who fell to 0-3 this season.

HAWKS 127, BUCKS 110

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Trae Young scored 20 points to lead eight players in double figures, and Atlanta limited Damian Lillard to six points while routing Milwaukee for its first victory of the season.

Bogdan Bogdanovic added 17 points, Dejounte Murray had 15 and Jalen Johnson and Onyeka Okongwu finished with 14 apiece for the Hawks.

Lillard, who scored 39 points in his Bucks debut on Thursday, failed to score in the first half, missing all seven of his shots, including four from 3-point range, He also committed six of the team's nine turnovers.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Malik Beasley added 18 points.

76ERS 126, TRAIL BLAZERS 98

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joel Embiid had 35 points and 15 rebounds, Tyrese Maxey added 26 points and 10 boards, and James Harden watched it all from Philadelphia's bench as the 76ers beat Portland.

Shaedon Sharpe led winless Portland with 20 points and Malcom Brogdon had 18.

Harden yanked his yellow hood over his head and laughed at times with his teammates—notably P.J. Tucker—as he sat out a third straight game. The official listed reason: return to competition reconditioning.

CLIPPERS 123, SPURS 83

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points, Paul George added 19 and the Los Angeles stars schooled San Antonio rookie Victor Wembanyama in his first road game.

Wembanyama was held to 11 points, five rebounds, two assists and one block. He committed five of the Spurs' season-worst 25 turnovers.

Russell Westbrook had 19 points and Ivica Zubac scored 16 for the Clippers, who had seven players in double figures. Westbrook and Zubac had a team-high eight rebounds apiece.

Devin Vassell led the Spurs with 14 points and Cedi Osman added 12 off the bench.

NBA All-Star Game will ditch gimmicks and return to classic East versus West format

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The NBA All-Star Game is going back to its roots, with the best of the East playing the best of the West.

Commissioner Adam Silver made the announcement Wednesday, revealing this season's All-Star Game on Feb. 18 in Indianapolis will pit the top vote-getters from the two conferences against one another. The decision means captains will no longer draft teams, though the players with the most votes in each conference will serve as captains.

The reason: Silver wants the All-Star Game to look more like traditional basketball.

"It felt like it was time," Silver said. "I said earlier, keeping with this overall theme, it's back to basketball this season. We heard it from our fans, I think the players recognize it, too, that last year's All-Star Game was something no one was proud of, and I don't think it was anyone's fault in particular. I think, though, that we need to refocus on what this league is really about and that's about the best basketball in the world."

Another change — the game will be 48 minutes. Since 2020, the league added 24 points to the leading team's score after three quarters and played the fourth quarter with only a shot clock but no game clock. The first team to hit the target score won.

And it's no coincidence the changes are taking place in Indiana, where basketball is treated like royalty. The Pacers are hosting their first All-Star Game since 1985—three years later than initially scheduled because the 2021 game was moved to Atlanta and played in mostly empty arena during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If there ever was a place to restore the NBA to something that seemed more classic it was an All-Star Game at Indianapolis," Silver said. "Let's just make it a pure 48-minute basketball game, the team that scores the most point in 48 minutes."

The first 66 All-Star Games all featured East-West matchups. The last six have seen the leading vote-getters from each conference serving as captains and drafting teams.

LeBron James served as one captains all six years, with Giannis Antetokounmpo the other captain three times. Kevin Durant had the honor twice, with Stephen Curry doing it once. Some drafts were televised, with last year's taking place live in Salt Lake City less than an hour before the start of the game.

Not enough people watched. Ratings plummeted for last season's game, which wasn't competitive. Some of the top stars, including Curry, Durant, James and Antetokounmpo either missed the game entirely or played very briefly because of injuries.

The 2023 matchup was entertaining in other ways—Boston's Jayson Tatum scored an All-Star record 55 points. His 27 third-quarter points also were a record, but the lack of viewers and lack of buzz evidently forced the NBA into making this change.

"This last year was a travesty in terms of the effort, in terms of how it looked. It looked horrible," NBA Players Association President CJ McCollum of the New Orleans Pelicans said last week, after Silver revealed changes were likely. "So, figuring out how to make it more competitive … maybe it's incentives, maybe it's the type of game style that we're having, maybe it's the teams that are being put together, I'm not sure. We're working towards that. But we know it can't go on the way it has because it's obviously not working."

It wasn't just players who found it unsatisfactory.

Indiana coach Rick Carlisle, president of the NBA's coaching association, also was consulted about the changes. Shortly before the Pacers opened the season against Washington on Wednesday, he offered his support.

"It seems like pure East-West competition makes a lot of sense," Carlisle said. "Certainly not a surprising announcement, but none the less, I think a very good adjustment."

Carlisle even had a suggestion for making the game more competitive: "Is there any way to increase the money for winning? That's the obvious one."

League officials are also considering options to possibly honor the ABA during All-Star weekend, such as using a red, white and blue ball. Indiana won three championships and was one of four teams from the now-defunct league to move to the NBA. No decisions have been made on that front.

To Silver, though, the biggest change is to bring back the elements that made the NBA All-Star Game a huge draw—pure basketball.

"I think the live draft was interesting, but I think it was a reminder to everybody at the league office that it's ultimately about the game," Silver said. "If the game is in order, you can do all those fun things, but they have to be ancillary to the game. It was a reminder we don't lose focus on what's most important and that is the game itself."

Harden sits out third straight game, Embiid gets start for 76ers in team's home opener

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—James Harden was out for the 76ers. Joel Embiid was in, after the reigning NBA MVP skipped a chance to rest and started Sunday night in Philadelphia's home opener.

Harden's absence against Portland was no surprise—the 10-time All-Star has now missed all three games in the wake of his offseason trade demand. Officially, the Sixers say Harden needs to "ramp up" his conditioning before he can return to play. Harden has continued to practice with the Sixers and participated in Sunday's film session and walkthrough.

Harden wore a yellow hoodie and jeans as he sat on the bench for opening night.

Harden did not travel with the Sixers on their opening-week road trip and was told to stay back and practice with the team's G League players.

"The report on him is, he had some good conditioning days," coach Nick Nurse said. "All signs are positive, conditioning-wise. Just need to get in some live action."

Nurse said he expected Harden to practice on Tuesday. The 76ers don't play again until Thursday.

The 76ers only introduced their starting lineup on Sunday so Harden wasn't included, but he did make the cut in the pregame hype video.

D-backs, Rangers combine for no errors in fist two World Series games

AP

Arizona Diamondbacks' Geraldo Perdomo, left, and Ketel Marte celebrate after Game 2 of the baseball World Series against the Texas Rangers Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, in Arlington, Texas.

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizona Diamondbacks shortstop Geraldo Perdomo ranged a step to his right and snagged a hot smash with a smooth, backhanded play, wheeling and firing to first baseman Christian Walker, who stretched for the ball, picked up the short hop and somehow managed to keep his foot on the bag for the first out of the inning.

The D-backs and Texas Rangers have been great with the leather all season long.

So far in the World Series, that trend is continuing.

The D-backs and Rangers combined for zero errors over the first two games of the Fall Classic, which is the first time that's happened since 2018. That's no accident. The two teams made the fewest errors in the big leagues during the regular season and have a combined eight finalists for Gold Glove awards.

"When the defense is playing clean baseball—picking it up and throwing it, hitting cutoffs, all the little things, it's hard to blow an inning open," Walker said. "There are a lot of outs to be made over the course of a game if you keep yourself in position to let that happen."

Game 3 of the World Series is Monday night in Phoenix with the series tied 1-1. Arizona will start rookie right-hander Brandon Pfaadt while Texas will counter with veteran righty Max Scherzer.

The Rangers have five Gold Glove finalists this season, including catcher Jonah Heim, first baseman Nathaniel Lowe, second baseman Marcus Semien, shortstop Corey Seager and right fielder Adolis García, who has one of the best outfield arms in the big leagues.

This is the first World Series since 1993 — and fifth ever — that will feature all of its games on artifical turf.

"The pitching is going to come and go at times, hitting will, but one thing we can do is focus on defense every day," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said. "And I'm proud of these guys. We have five guys that are finalists and a couple, I think, that were left out, to be honest, Josh Jung and (Leody) Taveras. They both have had fine years defensively."

The D-backs have three Gold Glove finalists—catcher Gabriel Moreno, center fielder Alek Thomas and Walker. Arizona doesn't have a weak spot defensively with at least average glove work at every position. Veteran third baseman Evan Longoria made a leaping catch of a line drive before firing to second for a double play in the first game of the NL Wild Card series against the Brewers, which helped perserve a win and start Arizona on its postseason roll.

KIMURA

From page 20

stage, and on the podium. Even if swimmers don't make it to the finals, I want them to do their best to aim for a higher ranking. While representing the CNMI, it is the swimmer's responsibility to aim for a higher ranking than swimmers from the same region in Micronesia," said Kimura.

He then pointed to Aleksenko (50m, 100m, and 200m butterfly), Juhn Tenorio (50m, 100m, and 200m backstroke), and Batallones (50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke) as carrying the best chances to medal for Team NMI.

"It will be difficult for anyone other than these swimmers to win medals in individual competition," he said.

Kimura also expects the CNMI to scoop more medals in the men's 100x4 freestyle, 200x4 freestyle, and 100x4 medley relay events.

"This would be a great accomplishment if we win a medal in the relay. This is a chance the CNMI won't get again."

Enroute to hopefully bagging medals, a bunch of them are also expected to break national and age group records—Juhn Tenorio (50m, 100m, 200m backstroke), Aleksenko (50m, 100m, 200m freestyle and 50m, 100m, 200m butterfly), Pajarillaga (200m backstroke), Watanabe (50m, 100m, 200m breaststroke), Litulumar (50m backstroke), and Batallones (50m, 100m, 200m breaststroke).

Meanwhile, Sikkel is a bit more subdued on his medal expectations in the Solomons.

"Expectations are high for our Pacific Games team. Medals we will have to wait and see, since a lot of very solid swimming nations will be represented at the Pacific Games. I do expect a lot of our swimmers to make finals though as for national records and age group records, I expect the swimmers to break scores of records. We have a lot of very talented swimmers who will get their first crack at swimming in a regulation-size pool in a while. Expect some NMI fireworks!" he said.

The Saipan Swim Club thanked World Aquatics for investing in swim development, the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation for their unwavering support, Pacific Islands Club Saipan for the use of their lap pool and their lifeguards for training, Aqua Resort Club for their willingness to let the national team to use their deep pool for starts practices, PHI Pharmacy for providing anti-malaria medication, and assistant coaches Christian Villacrusis and David Roberto for "putting in the long hours training with these guys," said Sikkel.

Aside from Aqua Resort and PHI Pharmacy, Kimura also thanked the Tan family, assistant coach Michelle Chen, Tsunami Saipan parents fundraising team, all Tsunami Saipan parents, and the Hosei University swim team for accepting their swimmers for training.

AIMELIIK

From page 20

But Just 4 Fun then made it 25-31 at the bottom of the inning from six runs off home runs by Shane Yamada, Nate Camacho, Jordan Suel, Keith Igitol, and Aling Ogumoro-Uludong.

The Bat Boys had one more chance to extend their lead in the last inning, but only one run came in from Marwin Leemarvin's solo homer to make it 32-25.

When it seemed that Just 4 Fun was going to make a comeback and win it all, Bat Boys pitcher Sus Iguel gave up only two more runs from a two-RBI homer by Jay Kintol, and proceeded to lock in three outs before they could do anymore damage.

Just 4 Fun drew first blood in the first game, after an overpowering 33-13 final, but the Bat Boys called to the softball gods and forced a deciding third game after a second game 15-13 win.

LEIGH GASES

Aimeliik Bat Boys players pose with their championship trophy and medals, along with Belau Amateur Softball Association president Leo Bobai, far left, during the awards ceremony of the 2023 Budweiser BASA Slow Pitch Open League championship at Dan Dan Softball Field last Sunday.

Bat Boys coach Henry Sablan was asked how he felt after their team won and said, "I owe it to the boys. These boys are good. I didn't get to play unfortunately because of my knee injury, but at least my boys got my back."

Sablan went on to say that their season and their team was like a "Cinderella story. If you saw us in the first game, we didn't know anybody—we didn't know each other's names. We got our first win not knowing each other. We lost our second and still our chemistry wasn't there. In the third game and on, we just flew from there. But honestly, this is a new team."

He added that the strength of the team is that they tease each other in the dugout to motivate each other to do better. "It was a good season," he said. On what he thought of Just 4 Fun, he said, "they were the team to beat and I'm glad we did."

Sablan said he's the president of the club/team, while teammate McQueen Masaharu is the vice president. "Aimeliik is my home town… we formed this team and shout out to Palau and the Aimeliik government for sponsoring the team and shout out to the people back in Palau."

Results of the MVP race will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

WEALTH

From page 20

setting, diversity and inclusion, ethical leadership, and community engagement.

The 28-year-old said that participating in the program "has been an unforgettable journey, and I've acquired a wealth of knowledge from the workshops. This program transcends basketball; it's a platform for nurturing the potential of the youth, empowering them to excel in life and encouraging the setting of clear goals to realize their aspirations."

Aranda is also the NMI Men's Senior National Basketball Team captain and said that his goal is to organize numerous basketball camps and competitive events for young individuals, with a social message designed to educate and inspire them.

"I firmly believe that starting with the younger generation is crucial because they represent the future of the Marianas. Furthermore, I am considering coaching a team in the near future, as this will provide me with a better understanding of the game through our youth. To achieve this, I understand the importance of setting a clear goal. I once received great advice from a remarkable mentor (Byron Vaetoe), who emphasized that a goal not written is only a wish," said Aranda.

His main takeaway from the program was that, "basketball can serve as a means to advocate social issues on a global scale. Basketball is an inclusive sport, and by defining its underlying purpose, we can address the issues being faced in the Marianas and beyond."

The Marianas Visitors Authority event coordinator said his favorite part of the program was the opportunity to create with a social purpose. "After developing these activities, we had the chance to present them to our fellow program participants. I've gained valuable insights from my peers, and I'm eager to incorporate these lessons into my future plans," he said.

Aranda then thanked the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation and FIBA Foundation "for providing me with this incredible opportunity for both learning and the chance to pass the knowledge to future generations."

He added, "I extend my sincere appreciation to my mentors, namely Annie La Fleur (a former Olympian, WNBA, WNBL player, and current Oceania Development manager), Inoke Niubalavu (Development Officer for the Fiji Islands Baseball Association), Sarah Cowley Ross (NZ Olympia #1134), coach Byron Vaetoe (a Tall Blacks Legend), for the valuable lessons and inspiration they've bestowed to me. It is my aspiration to strive for the highest version of myself, thanks to your guidance."

"This program stands out as one of the best basketball experiences I've ever had, as it transcends personal ambition and is driven by the desire to give back to the younger generation and the profound love for the game," said Aranda.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jack Aranda, back, second left, joins 15 other youth leaders in a classroom during the FIBA Youth Leadership Program: Basketball for Good for the Oceania region held in Auckland, New Zealand last Oct. 20-23.

Vikings beat Packers but lose Cousins to possible Achilles tendon injury.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

D-backs, Rangers combine for no errors in fist two World Series games.

PAGE 19

Kimura vows a medal every day for swimming

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

No less than a medal in everyday of the swimming competition is the expectation of CNMI National Swimming Team head coach Hiroyuki Kimura during the 2023 Honiara Pacific Games.

"The first medal for Team NMI must be in swimming! I know we will win a medal every day," he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Helping him and co-head coach Richard Sikkel accomplish that feat is the islands' 15-swimmer strong delegation to the quadrennial event in the Solomon Islands.

They are made up of Juhn Tenorio, Isaiah Aleksenko, Kean Pajarillaga, Kouki Watanabe, Kevin Guerrero, Andrew Nunez, Julia Jinang, Shoko Litulumar, and Maria Batallones from Kimura's very own Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and Taiyo Akimaru, Moshe Sikkel, Michael Miller, Jinie Thompson, Piper Raho, and Nagi Tenorio of the Saipan Swim Club, which Sikkel coaches.

Also joining the group are managers Yuko Kimura and Judy Mendieta.

Kimura said since the Pacific Games is the epitome of sports competition in the region, the CNMI National Swimming Team is taking it very seriously.

"The Pacific Games is never a developmental meet. It's a competition. This is truly a struggle for the islands' prestige. Of course, having friendship with other country swimmers is important. However, it is through serious race that true friendships develop, and it is through hard training that we are able to understand each other," he said.

To this end, the longtime Tsunami Saipan head coach hopes to give the CNMI the most medals in the 2023 Pacific Games.

"It is the coach's responsibility to get as many swimmers to make it through the preliminary round, onto the final

See KIMURA on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI National Swimming Team to the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands pose for a group photo. From left, Julia Jinang, Isaiah Aleksenko, Jinie Thompson, Kean Pajarillaga, Maria Batallones, Moshe Sikkel, Kouki Watanabe, Shoko Litulumar, Andrew Nunez, Piper Raho, Nagi Tenorio, Kevin Guerrero, Michael Miller, and Taiyo Akimaru. Not in photo is Juhn Tenorio who is still in Japan studying in college.

'Wealth of knowledge' from FIBA Youth Leadership Program for Aranda

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jack Aranda said he acquired a "wealth of knowledge" from representing the CNMI in the FIBA Youth Leadership Program: Basketball for Good for the Oceania region in Auckland, New Zealand last Oct. 20-23.

He was one of 16 youth leaders in the Oceania region chosen to represent their islands in the program, which, in line with FIBA's strategic objective to develop youth basketball, is to support the development of youth basketball leaders across Oceania.

Across the program, participants covered a variety of topics including personal development, communication skills, teamwork, goal

See WEALTH on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jack Aranda, far right, takes part in a selfie with 15 other youth leaders of the FIBA Youth Leadership Program: Basketball for Good for the Oceania region held in Auckland, New Zealand last Oct. 20-23.

Aimeliik Bat Boys come back to win BASA open champs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Aimeliik Bat Boys came back after losing Game 1 of the best-of-3 finals to win the championship of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League championship at Dan Dan Softball Field last Sunday.

For all the marbles, the Bat Boys and Just 4 Fun sluggers turned the third and last game into a home run derby with homers flying left and right. In the end, the Bat Boys outscored Just 4 Fun, 32-27.

The Bat Boys' Sus Iguel, Lamarc Iguel, Narry Nakamura, and Luis Iguel gave the team a much needed four insurance runs from back-to-back homers in the sixth inning for a good 31-19 lead.

See AIMELIIK on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Aimeliik Bat Boys second baseman Nokki Saralu gets Just 4 Fun's Tony Salas out in the nick of time during Game 2 of the best-of-3 championship round of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League championship at Dan Dan Softball Field last Sunday.